

The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-18
With Special Guest Don Talley

Romans 11:36

This is a story of stewardship, faithfulness,
and _____ opportunity.

Every one of us as followers of Jesus should be
challenged by ***three important lessons***:

- 1) All that we _____ is *from* Him.
- 2) All that we _____ is *through* Him.

Philippians 4:13

- 3) All that we _____ is *for* Him.

Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-18
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Romans 11:36

This is a story of stewardship, faithfulness,
and MISSED opportunity.

Every one of us as followers of Jesus should be
challenged by ***three important lessons***:

- 1) All that we HAVE is *from* Him.
- 2) All that we DO is *through* Him.

Philippians 4:13

- 3) All that we GAIN is *for* Him.

Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

How does this encourage or challenge you?

TAKING IT HOME

- 6) What are the current opportunities or talents God has put in your life that He is calling you to be faithful and steward well in?

- 7) What are your practical “next step(s)” for each of your answers in question 6?

- 8) Consider sharing your answers to questions 6&7 with a fellow believer or two, so they can keep you accountable and strengthen you.

- 9) What do you most need to remember or put into practice from this week’s message or homework?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Let Moses’ words below be a focus of your prayer time.

Psalm 90:12 - *"So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom."*

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Life Group Homework For the week of September 25, 2022

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) What are two or three talents/hobbies you had as a child or youth?

REVIEW

- 2) How did God use this passage or message to teach, encourage, or challenge you? What questions did you have?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) Jesus told several parables to teach us that we should always be ready for His return. Read just a few of these reminders from Jesus below.

Matthew 24:42, 44 - "[42] *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ... [44] "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Matthew 25:13 - *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

Mark 13:35-36 - "[35] *Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- [36] "lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping."*

This is just a small sampling of Jesus *many* warnings to be ready. Why do you think Jesus made such a big deal about our being ready?

What do you think are some of the biggest temptations for us to *NOT* be ready?

What practical step(s) can you take to live a life of *readiness*? How can you encourage those around you to be ready?

4) Consider the following excuses Moses gave when God wanted to use him....

Exodus 3:10-11, 13 - "[10] *"Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."* [11] *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt? ...* [13] *Then Moses said to God, "...what shall I say to them?"*

Exodus 4:1, 10 - "[1] *Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' ...* [10] *Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."*

What do these verses teach you about yourself?

What does this story (about God calling Moses) teach you about God?

What might it look like for a Christian to obey God's leading despite feelings of weariness or incompetence? Give several specific and practical examples. (For example - Choosing to forgive someone and give that relationship another chance, or Choosing to patiently parent a difficult child with God's truth and love, etc)

What advice would you give a Christian friend who is feeling incapable or discouraged?

5) Moses' story began with much hesitation and several excuses. Read how Moses responds after seeing God deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt -

Exodus 15:1-2, 13, 18 - "[1] *Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! [2] The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. ...* [13] *You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation. ...* [18] *"The LORD shall reign forever and ever."*