



Sermon Title: Be Faithful with God-Given Talent

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

“Be faithful with what God has entrusted to you. Don’t bury it; instead, use it for His glory.”

Imagine being handed a fortune and told simply to “make it count.” In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a story that is much more than a lesson in ancient finance; it is a profound look at the expectations of the King. As we wait for Christ’s return, we are not called to a passive, but to be busy.

Through the Parable of the Talents, Jesus challenges us to look at our time, our gifts, and the Gospel itself not as our own, but as sacred capital entrusted to us by God. Are we displaying His glory with our faithfulness, or are we burying our potential in the soil of fear?

THE RESOURCES- ENTRUSTED BY GOD (vv. 14-15)

In the opening of this parable, Jesus describes a Master departing on a “long journey.” This represents the time between His ascension and His Second Coming—the very era we live in today. Before leaving, He entrusts His possessions to His servants. This reveals a fundamental truth: **We are not owners; we are stewards.**

While we often use the word “talent” to describe a natural skill, the biblical *talanton* was a massive unit of currency. Whether it is our time, our money, or our spiritual gifts, God has invested heavily in us. Everything we have—from the breath in our lungs to the money in our banks—is “company capital” belonging to the Creator.

Verse 15 teaches us two vital lessons for the faithful servant:

- **God Knows Our Capacity:** He does not give us more than we can bear or manage. Having “five talents” is not a badge of superiority, and having “one” is not a sign of neglect. It reflects God’s perfect knowledge of our strengths.
- **Comparison is the Thief of Joy:** We often stumble by looking at someone else’s “five talents” and feeling resentful. But God does not call us to compare our abilities; He calls us to use them.

THE RESPONSE- ACTION POWERED BY FAITH (vv. 16-18)

The first two servants wasted no time. Scripture says they went “immediately” to trade and put their talents to work.

- **Faith in Action:** These servants understood the Master’s expectations. Their productivity was not just about business; it was an act of worship and trust. As James 2:26 reminds us, *“Faith without works is dead.”*
- **The Result of Faith:** Because they were willing to take risks and labour for the Kingdom, their resources were doubled.

The third servant took a different path. Instead of trading, he “*went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money*” (v. 18).

It was not just laziness; it was fear. While the other two were driven by a desire to please the Master, this servant was paralyzed by a wrong view of him. By burying the talent, he ensured there would be no growth. He chose the “safety” of the soil over the “risk” of the reach. We are called to be faithful, not fearful. Like the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25) who pushed through the crowd to touch Jesus’ cloak, genuine faith drives us toward God, while fear drives us away.

THE REWARD- ANCHORED IN JOY OF HIS RETURN (vv. 19-23)

Both the servant with five talents and the servant with two received the exact same reward. This reveals a beautiful truth: God does not reward based on the *quantity* of the result, but on the *quality* of the faithfulness.

The faithful servants received a three-fold reward:

1. **Commendation (The Master's Approval):** Hearing the words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."* Our goal in life—whether in our jobs, families, or ministries—is simply to please God.
2. **Promotion (Greater Trust):** The Master noted they were faithful in "few things" and put them in charge of "many things." In the Kingdom, promotion is not just more work; it is a sign of deeper trust.
3. **Invitation (Entrance to Joy):** This is the greatest reward—sharing in the very joy of God Himself. It is an invitation to eternal, intimate fellowship where every tear is wiped away (Revelation 21:4).


The story of the third servant (vv. 24-30) shifts from a lesson on stewardship to a sobering truth about salvation. By burying his talent, he proved he had no love for the Master and no faith in His mission. This servant represents those who claim to follow Christ but lack a "saving faith." While we manage time and money, the most valuable talent God has entrusted to us is the **Gospel**. To "bury" the Gospel—to live as if it has no power or value—is the ultimate tragedy.


THE REBUKE- THE CONSEQUENCE OF UNFAITHFULNESS (vv. 24-30)


The third servant's story is a sobering warning. His failure was not that he lacked ability, but that he refused to act. He did not just mismanage the money; he rejected the Master's mission entirely (v.25).

The Master's response was swift and final. He called the servant "wicked and lazy" and ordered the talent to be taken away.

In God's kingdom, faithfulness leads to abundance, while neglect leads to loss (v. 29). The servant was cast into "outer darkness." This is not merely a loss of rewards; it is the loss of the Kingdom itself. As John 3:36 warns, to disobey and reject the Son is to remain under the wrath of God. The "talent" of the Gospel is the most dangerous thing to bury. To receive the message of salvation and do nothing with it is to prove that one has never truly been transformed by it.

 **Ponder:** God does not reward the volume of your gifts, but the velocity of your faithfulness; are you trading in the marketplace or hiding in the soil?

 **Practical Application:** Identify one talent or hour of time you've been "burying" out of fear and use it to serve someone this week—move from passive ownership to active stewardship.

 **Prayer:** Lord, forgive my fear and help me stop comparing my "one" to another's "five." Teach me to risk what You have given for Your glory until I hear Your "Well done my good and faithful servant." Amen.