

Matthew 25:14-30

“Worthwhile Investment”

I. God’s expectations

A. Talents (Gr.) = a measurement of weight – v.18: money = (Gr.) – agurion = silver.

1) V.15 – *God gives us responsibilities according to our own ability* (Gr. dunamis = power).

a) *A major reason God doesn’t give more to some is b/c we’re not powerful enough to handle it...at least right now – v.21-23; Luke 12:48b; 14:28-33; 16:10.*

2) *God gives us responsibilities & He’s not looking for excuses – v.24-27 – 2 Cor. 8:12.*

3) *God gives us responsibilities important & valuable to Him & He expects a return on His investment – v.27 – “...I would have received back...” – Is. 5:2,4.*

a) Finances/tithe – Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:8-10; Luke 6:38

b) Family; marriage – Deut. 4:9; 6:5-9; 11:1-7, 18-22, 26-28, 32; Eph. 5:22-6:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

c) Pastor; ministry; testimony – Matt. 5:13-16; Eph. 4:1; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:28; Prov. 27:23

d) His word – Ps. 119:11

e) Time – Eph. 5:15-16; Col. 4:5-6

II. Man’s irresponsibility: Why aren’t we responsible with God’s investment?

A. V.20-24, 30 – Ignorance: we don’t know the Savior like we think we do.

1) V.20, 22, 24: “*Lord*” – Gr. kurios = supreme authority

2) V.26 – “wicked & lazy servant”

3) V.30 – “cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness” = you will know them by their fruit – Matt. 7:15-23.

a) **God expects faithfulness & fruitfulness from His people.**

b) **Those who are faithful are fruitful – John 15:1-8.**

c) **If you’re not fruitful, you’re not a follower.**

i) **“There are those who profess to be servants who are not even born of the Spirit.” – H.A. Ironside**

d) God has the authority to do whatever He wants, but He isn’t ruthless, merciless or cruel; **but, He is just** = there are consequences for laziness, irresponsibility & fruitlessness – Matt. 12:36; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Luke 2:49; John 9:4; Rev. 22:12.

B. V.24-25 – Selfishness – “...hid your talent in the ground.”

1) Many Christians have done the same with their spiritual walk/gifts: buried it in the ground, being more invested in their own plans than God’s/making time for everything/everyone else – James 4:13-17.

a) What are things that get buried?

i) Treasure; rubbish; **things that are dead.**

1) *If our walk with Christ & the talents He has given us are still active & living, we won’t bury them!*

2) *When we bury our God given treasure we also reap everything that comes with that decision.*

C. V.26 – wickedness

1) We’re sinful & prone to wander – Is. 53:6.

D. V.26 – laziness

- 1) We don't deem God's investment/work as valuable as He does – 2 Cor. 8:9.
- 2) We don't understand God's urgency – 2 Cor. 4:3; 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:2; Mark 13:32-37; 2 Pet. 3:10.

III. The solution: how do we become worthwhile investments for Jesus?

- A. Wake up – Rom. 13:11-14
- B. Make up (repent) – 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19
- C. Sit up & step up: be alert/aware of God given opportunities & purposes...AND THEN DO IT!!!! – Is. 6:8; John 9:4; 12:35; 1 Thess. 5:6-8; Prov. 4:25-27