

## Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: The Parable of the Talents

Passages: Matthew 25:14-30

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 8/26

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What do you think is the main idea Jesus is trying to teach through this parable?
2. A single talent or bag of gold was worth what the average laborer would earn in 20 years. What might this tell us about the value God assigns to the gifts, abilities, and resources He's given to each of us? Do you feel more like the person with 5 talents, 2 talents, or 1 talent? Why?
3. In this parable the master (and God) doesn't seem concerned with the fact that one person may have more or less to invest for him than the next person -- but rather with what each person does with the resources they have. How might this apply to a person who feels they don't have much to offer? How might this apply to someone who seems to have a great deal to offer?
4. Let's look at the servant who received the one talent. Why did he do what he did? What was his understanding of the motivations of the master? How does our underestimating God's love and faithfulness undermine our ability to live for Him? Conversely, how does a full appreciation of God's love and goodness empower us to use our lives for Him with joy and power?
5. For the two who used their talents wisely the masters response highlights a biblical truth called "the little/big principle:" "he/she who is faithful with little will be entrusted with much." How have you seen this play out in life in general? How have you seen it play out in the life of faith? What do you think is contained in the "much" that God entrusts us with when we've been faithful in smaller things?
6. God doesn't give us "bags of gold" to invest for Him, but He does give us other things that we can use to His glory. What are some of the things He gives to people that can be used for His glory? What are some of the "talents" He's given to you? (Don't be falsely modest -- all the glory goes to God! But when you can take stock of the things God purposefully crafted into you, you can be more intentional with using those things to His glory!)