

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

**Great Stories about Money & Possessions
Sunday, November 14 | Tommy Duke
First Baptist Church of Garden City**

The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹ After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ ²¹ The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.

Let’s celebrate together!’

²² The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ ²³ The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ ²⁴ Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ ²⁶ But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ ²⁸ Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Actors:

The Actions:

HOW TO HONOR GOD WITH MY MONEY & POSSESSIONS (Four Shifts from the Parables of Jesus)

SHIFT #1: FROM _____ TO _____.

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.” – Matthew 25:14 (NLT)

*“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;”
– Proverbs 3:9 (NKJV)*

SHIFT #2: FROM _____ TO _____.

“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.” – Matthew 25:16-18 (NLT)

SHIFT #3: FROM _____ TO _____.

*“I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.”
– Matthew 25:25 (NLT)*

“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.” – Matthew 25:29 (NLT)

SHIFT #4: FROM _____ TO _____.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” – Matthew 6:19-20 (NKJV)

Memory Verse:

*“Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”
– Matthew 25:21 (NLT)*

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize Matthew 25:21.
- Commit to be a faithful steward of what God has entrusted to me.
- Ask God to help me shift my approach to money and possessions.
- Give thanks this week for my blessings and our church.

Join us again next weekend as we continue
The Greatest Stories Ever Told with *“Great Stories about Eternal Living.”*
Invite a friend to join you!

** Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV)
or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.*

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