



Thursday November 12, 2015

“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. 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.

“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.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 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.’

“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!’

“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.’

“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!’

“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. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

“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, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 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. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

When we work hard for something, we feel a sense of ownership over it. Whether we’re working for a paycheck or raising kids at home, we see the results of our hard work as ours. But the truth is that the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord. We don’t own anything—not our houses, our cars or our 401Ks. Everything we have is a blessing from God, and what we do with it matters to Him.

Because our money belongs to God, we have a responsibility to manage it well. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the story of a master who gave money to several servants. One servant did a bad job managing what he was given, so God took His money from that servant and gave it to another who had been diligent.

God trusts us to manage what we are given. When we prove ourselves trustworthy with what God has given us, He can trust us with more!

Reflect:

1. Have you ever thought about the fact that everything you own belongs to the Lord? How does that change the way you make financial decisions?
2. If God were to look at your finances today, would He see you as a faithful manager? Why or why not?
3. What one thing can you do today to be a better manager of the wealth God has given you?

Pray:

Jesus, everything I have is Yours and everything I am I owe to You. Help me to be a good steward of what You have given me.