

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 02.23.2020

**INVEST YOUR TALENTS! – MATTHEW 25:14-30**

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

In this parable, Jesus describes a Master who gives instruction to His servants before leaving on a Long Journey. This is not a strange idea to the ancient world, where servants were given great responsibility. This was often a smart way for a man to invest his money. This parable takes up a question that of the Bridesmaids left unanswered – ‘What is readiness?’ The Bible teaches us that Jesus will return, and the first Christians lived like they believed it could happen any day. Now, more than 2,000 years later, Christians often neglect thoughts of Jesus’ return, thinking that because He hasn’t returned yet, He probably won’t return anytime soon. The temptation, then, is to think we have plenty of time to do the things He has called us to do. However, this kind of spiritual procrastination is contrary to Jesus’ teachings. He taught us to make the most of the time we are given while He is gone, using our time and resources for His priorities. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most or spoke to you from Pastor Ray’s message this last weekend?
2. When you were growing up and your parents left you home alone with a list of chores, did you do them immediately or procrastinate? Why?
3. What about now? Do you tend to make the best use of your time, or do you procrastinate?

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

Have a volunteer read **Matthew 25:14-15**

1. Why do you think Jesus wants to remind us that He is returning one day?
2. What “possessions” has Jesus entrusted to you personally while He is away? If He returned today, would He find you stewarding those priorities well? Explain.
3. How do you feel if you don’t have as much money as someone else? How do you keep from getting discouraged if you don’t have as many resources or natural abilities as others?

Jesus is our Master and He is coming back. How we live in the meantime is significant. We all have the same purpose—the same general priority—but we have different tasks based on what is going on in our lives, and who God has placed in our lives.

Have a volunteer read **Matthew 25:16-18**.

1. Compare and contrast the three men in this passage.
2. What are some reasons why believers might “cover up” the talents God has given them?

## **“PREPARE!” in 2020**

3. What is scary about going all out for Jesus with the talents He’s entrusted to you?
4. What would it look like for you to “bury” the things God has given you?

The three men showed their commitment to the master’s priorities “immediately.” We don’t know anything about the three men previously; Jesus didn’t include their history in the story because their history didn’t matter. At that point, two of them determined to spend their time devoted to their master’s priorities, and one of them did not.

### **Have another volunteer read Matthew 25:19-30.**

1. What do you think Jesus was alluding to when He said the master came “and settled accounts” with the three men?
2. What pleased the master in the parable? What angered him? Why?
3. How have you experienced sharing in “your Master’s joy” by committing to His priorities?

All that we have belongs to God, including our time. As a result, our time should be spent on His priorities. We should be about the tasks of evangelizing, serving, and giving with whatever talents God has entrusted to us. Those who follow Jesus are interested in being found faithful at His return.

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Pastor Ray said, the 3<sup>rd</sup> servant gives his Talent back, with no investment or any sense of accountability. He seems to have no idea just how much he has displeased the Master! We can say of the 3<sup>rd</sup> servant that he didn’t think, he didn’t work, he didn’t even try, and he made excuses. Jesus is letting us know how important it is to stay busy while He is gone. We are not to just sit around and wait for His return. They didn’t know when He would return, but two used what they had to the best of their ability and had fruit to show for it. So, what are You doing with what God has given you? Are you using your time, your money your talents for bearing fruit for the Kingdom?**

1. How would your life look different this week if you were to give your attention to God’s priorities and use your talents for the Lord?
2. Of the three rewards the faithful servants received, which is the most exciting to you? Why?
3. How might our local community be changed if we gave our full attention to God’s priorities as a Growth Group, or Church?

PRAYER -Thank God for entrusting you with His priorities until Jesus returns. Commit to be His faithful servant in the days ahead.

*“The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’” His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’” Matt. 25:20-21*