



# FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Parables of Jesus

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# COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE - WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020

**WARM UP QUESTION:** Do you consider yourself talented or an investor? How so? (5 min)

**READ:** Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 28:18-20 (5 min)

**FOCUS:** God expects a return on everything that He's entrusted to you. (Read aloud)

## DISCUSS (Read aloud)

As Jesus gives every individual different measures of talents (resources) our temptation will be to hide them but God expects a return on everything He's invested in us with interest.

### 1- DIFFERENT MEASURES (10 min)

- God has given **every** individual different measures of talents (resources) to earn and achieve for the Kingdom of Heaven. (Vs 14)
- In New Testament times, a talent was a unit of money worth 6000 drachmas (common laborers earned about one drachma a day), or 20 years' wages. This talent comparison is equivalent to one's .

abilities and resources, including time.

- Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and earth, and these talents are to be used for His kingdom.
- The expectation of multiplication is the same for all people in all circumstances of life according to what He has given us to work with.
- He chooses what each person receives, whether one, two, or 5 talents. (Vs 15)

### 2 - HIDDEN TALENTS (10 min)

- The temptation is for us to waste, misuse (misappropriate), or bury our God given talents for various reasons. (Vs 24,25)
- Our talents are invested appropriately when used for the advancement and multiplication of the Kingdom of Heaven according to The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

- Our talents remain hidden and our lives unfruitful when we focus on 1) self preservation, 2) fear of making mistakes and 3) thinking our talent isn't valuable enough.
- We are empowered to invest our talents when we know the Master's heart correctly (relationship).

### 3 - THE KINGDOM WITH INTEREST (10 min)

- God expects a return on the talents He's invested in us. (Vs 27)
- We can grow in our ability and be given more when proven faithful with what we have already been given. (Vs 28)
- Our faithfulness leads to fruitfulness which leads to our joy in God's presence. (Vs 21,23)
  - Faithful + Fruitful = Joyful
- God doesn't compare you to others in terms of talents (abilities and resources), so you should stop comparing yourself to others as well.
- God is looking for and expecting faith and faithfulness.

*"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matt 28:18-20 ESV*

### REFLECT (10 min)

- What talents has God sovereignly chosen to invest in you to help proclaim the Good News of Jesus and make disciples preparing for His return?
  - Talent = resources, intellectual + physical abilities, opportunities, and relational connections.
- In what ways am I tempted to waste, misuse, or bury these talents?
- If I truly understood the grace of God unlike the wicked and lazy servant, how would my life be more joyful like the "good and faithful" servant?

### TAKE ACTION

- Take an inventory of your talents by spending time in prayer, the Bible, and seeking wise counsel from others.
- Put them into practice intentionally by sharing with others about Jesus Christ and helping them follow Him.

### PRAY (10 min)

Heavenly Father, at times I have been like the wicked and lazy servant. Forgive me and help me know your heart of grace, as well as the talents you've entrusted to me. Free me from fear and give me faith for your Kingdom advance, all my days. In Jesus name, amen.