

Week of June 11 - The Good-for-Nothing Christians | Small Group Lesson 10

Connect

What do you think about investments? What is the risk in investing? Why doesn't everyone invest? What is the root cause and emotion for someone not to invest?

Verses – Matthew 25:14-30 (CSB)

14 "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, depending on each one's ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately 16 the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. 17 In the same way the man with two earned two more. 18 But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I've earned five more talents.' 21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.' 22 "The man with two talents also approached. He said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I've earned two more talents.' 23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy.' 24 "The man who had received one talent also approached and said, 'Master, I know you. You're a harsh man, reaping where you haven't sown and gathering where you haven't scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' 26 "His master replied to him, 'You evil, lazy servant! If you knew that I reap where I haven't sown and gather where I haven't scattered, 27 then you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and I would have received my money back with interest when I returned. 28 "'So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 And throw this good-for-nothing servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Study

1. What is “it” in v.13? Who do the servants “belong” to? Where do the talents come from? What is the man’s criteria for distributing each portion? (Matthew 25:1; John 1:16-17; Colossians 1:3-7; 1 Corinthians 1:18)

💡 **DID YOU KNOW?** - The term for “servant” is from the Greek word “*doulos*” which means “slave.” A “talent” is worth millions of dollars today.

2. What is the significance in their results? What did the third servant do with his portion? Why? (v.25) How did the man describe this servant? Why? (v.26)

💡 **DID YOU KNOW?** - The term for “ability” is from the Greek word “*dynamin*” which means “power” even “miraculous power.”

3. What happens to the unfaithful servant? Is God just? (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 9:19-24)

☕ **DISCUSS:** What was the third man lacking that would have allowed him to invest his portion? Why is fear such a “showstopper?” What is the opposite of it?

🏃 **APPLY:** Read Psalm 56:3–4. What other verses do you know help you overcome fear? Why should we not fear? (Romans 8:31; Psalm 118:6; Isaiah 41:10)

Share

If you believe that the power of the Gospel is coming through God, how shall we feel about sharing it? Do you believe this? (Romans 3:23; 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that the Lord will give us courage and opportunity to share the gospel.
- Would you like to serve this year at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?
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