

Message Notes

Wise or Worthless Slaves?

Matthew 25:14-30

Gospel of Matthew part 82

September 3, 2006

Message Outline

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The ALLOCATION of the Master (25:14-15)

1. The allocation is **by the Owner to the servants**.
2. The allocation is **one of significance**.
3. The allocation is **according to ability**.
4. The allocation is **with expectation**.

The ACTIVITY of the Servants (25:16-18)

1. The **diligence** of the two: immediate, industrious, faithful
2. The **negligence** of the one: lazy, resentful, fearful

The ACCOUNTING upon Return (25:19-30)

1. The **commendation** of the faithful servants.
2. The **condemnation** of the fearful servants.

The APPLICATION to Us

1. We are all servant stewards. God is the Owner to whom we will give an account.
2. What matters is not what we've been given, but how we use what we've been given.
3. Alertness involves faithfulness. Faithfulness involves active "going for it" with all that God has given.
4. We face daily and life-long choices between living by faith or fear, being diligent or negligent.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 25:14-30. Why is it so important to understand this parable in its larger context? What is that larger context? How does this parable relate to what we looked at last week?
2. When the Owner allocates his possessions, what is the basis of the allocation? Why do the servants get different amounts?
3. What three things do the “good and faithful” servants receive from the Owner in reward for their faithfulness? What does this hint at regarding heaven and the eternal state?
4. Look carefully at the dialogue between the Owner and the one talent servant in 25:24-28. Why does the servant say he buried the money instead of investing it? Does this fit with what we see in the rest of the parable? What does the Owner accuse the servant of in return?
5. What do we learn about faithfulness here in contrast to fear? What do we make of 25:29?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week? How does this parable challenge our cultural sensibilities?
2. Who is the parable addressed to? Believers or unbelievers or both? What difference does this make?
3. Is sitting on and maintaining what God gives us equivalent to faithfulness? How does this parable answer this question?
4. As a church, what are some of the things that God has given us? How are we investing those resources for an eternal return? What opportunities might we have for more investment this Fall? What does it look like for us to take risks and really go for it for the Lord as a church these days? What does that require from each of us?
5. Which of the four highlighted application ideas on the outline grabbed you the most? What is your takeaway from this passage after studying it? In what ways are you investing God's resources for an eternal return? In what ways might you “go for it” more this Fall?