

Financially Healthy Spirituality
Given to be Given
Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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Small Group Questions

1. What thoughts, feelings, or questions do you have after reading this passage or listening to this sermon?
2. How does this passage speak to you about who God is?
3. What speaks to you about the different ways the servants handle the money entrusted to them?
4. How might “digging a hole and hiding the master’s money” look in your life?
5. Can you name times when you put God’s money to work? What was his experience like for you?
6. The third servant said that fear impacted his decision to hide the bag in the ground. How has fear impacted the way you manage your money? Has this impacted your generosity?
7. When you see the words “each to his own ability” (verse 15) how does that impact the way you view God, yourself and your wealth?
8. Stockbroker story: How would you feel if you gave a stockbroker your money to invest over 30 years only to find out upon retirement he never invested it? How might this question challenge the way you manage the money God has entrusted you with?
9. As you consider this sermon and scripture passage, what is one step that you can take to be like the first two servants in the story?
10. Gather in groups of 2-3, share prayer requests, and pray for one another.