

FOLLOW-THROUGH

Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message
Matthew 25:14-30, Parable of the Talents
November 12, 2006



Introduction

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30.
2. The parable is about making the most of what God has given us. We all have some “hidden” gift or talent, something we do very well (or at least fairly well) but no one knows it. What’s your hidden talent? Share it and explain why it’s been hidden.

Getting Inside the Parable

1. The master gives all three servants a share of his wealth to manage. All totaled, the 8 talents he distributed amounted to what today is a total value of almost \$2 million. These guys (even the one with one talent worth \$247,000!) received a lot from their master. Share with your group at least one rich, incredible blessing for which you are very grateful today from each of these areas: financial, relational, material, and spiritual.
2. Each of the three servants had the same time restraints. Vs. 19 says that “after a long time” the master returned. How do you respond to the passing of time in your life? Choose one: It’s going too fast. b) It’s a gradual thing. c) It’s moving at a snail’s pace.
3. Servants 1 and 2 doubled their master’s talents, making the most of what they were given. Where in your life do you see yourself really building on God’s investment on you?

Digging Deeper

1. What about Servant 3? From the text, what motivated this servant to bury his one talent?
2. When has fear led you to miss an opportunity to grow because you refused to take the risk?
3. On the other hand when did tasking a risk truly make a difference in helping make the most of your gifts?
4. Summarize the meaning of this parable for you by finishing these sentences:
 - God wants me to make the most of....
 - One risk I could take for God is....
5. The story ends with the master taking the talent from the Servant No. 1 and giving it to Servant 3. What’s worse, Servant 3 is cast out to where there “is weeping and gnashing of teeth.” In Matthew’s gospel that means hell! What does that tell you about the final judgment when Christ (our Master) returns? What does this say about unbelievers? What does it say to believers?
6. Close with prayer.

