

Investing God's Way

2018 Mark Beaird

Text: Matthew 25:14-30 NIV

The Parable of the Bags of Gold? or Talents - A "Talent" was a measurement, an amount."

The intended context for this passage is, "The way to think in the kingdom of God is like this..." In God's economy He owns it all and gave us all we have. Therefore, He has expectations regarding how we use what He has given to us.

Now, let us read Matthew 25:14-30, "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But 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. ²⁰The 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. ²⁵So 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? ²⁷Well 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. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Introduction

I love the story of the elderly woman who had just finished shopping and returned to her car. She found four men inside. She dropped her shopping bags and drew a handgun. She pointed the gun toward the men and screamed for them to get out of her car. They flew out of there like crazy. Somewhat shaken, she put her gun away, picked up her bags, and got into the front seat. But for some reason the key would not fit the ignition. Then it dawned on her; this was not her car. Her car was in the next row. So, she found her car and drove down to the police station to turn herself in. As she told her story the officer behind the desk who was about ready to fall out of his chair laughing pointed her to another desk where four men were reporting a carjacking by a little old woman with a handgun.

She thought it was her car, but it really belonged to someone else. **We think what we have is ours – we earned it, we worked for it, it’s ours. Except that it isn’t. It’s God’s. All of it. We have been entrusted with it to put it to use for God’s good purpose in the world.**

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithforward/2014/11/making-the-most-of-what-we-have-been-given-a-sermon-on-the-parable-of-the-talents-in-matt-2514-30/>

We are often reminded what we have is not always in our control. Life and God have a way of reminding us we need to keep our existence and all we do in perspective.

As we read this passage in Matthew 25, several possible themes emerge: time, work, comparisons, responsibilities, productivity, faithfulness, fear, and more. However, the theme of “investing” seems to stand out most to me.

To invest is to, “allocate money (or sometimes another resource, such as time) in the expectation of some benefit in the future.”

The master gave his servants opportunity to invest his money and his servants had the opportunity to invest what had been entrusted to them. Clearly, the truth the scripture is conveying is that God entrust us with so much and with so many opportunities and we are being called to be wise and invest with courage and faith. But, let’s look a little deeper at our *investments* in light of the opportunities God gives to us.

I. Investing, Or Not Investing, Has Inherent Risks and Benefits.

A. Investing only seems easier when we have plenty.

B. Investing is based on expectation.

II. Investing, Or Not Investing, Will Yield an Outcome.

A. Taking action in obedience and faithfulness will produce a return.

B. Failing to be obedient and faithful, even in little matters, is important.

It was Benjamin Franklin who wrote:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost;
for want of a shoe the horse was lost;
and for want of a horse the rider was lost;
being overtaken and slain by the enemy,
all for the want of care about a horseshoe nail.

Conclusion

As we look deeper at our *investments* in light of the opportunities God gives to us we can see more reason behind the master's displeasure with the "unfaithful servant." It wasn't that he wasted the master's money, it was that he wasted an opportunity—his opportunity! He was referred to as being "wicked and lazy." That's a strong condemnation, but the master understood the value of an opportunity and he understood the tragedy of wasting it. Whether we like it or not, life and God will one day hold us responsible for our choices. The good news is God gives us many opportunities to invest, to make good choices, to benefit from his graciousness.