

#### IV. FROM REBUKE TO REWARD

*“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant....’* Matthew 25:26a

*“20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’*

*21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’*

*22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’*

*23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”* Matthew 25:20-23

- Affirmation – well done.
- Promotion – you will have greater responsibility.
- Celebration – enter into the joy of your Lord.

#### V. FROM FEAR TO FAITH

*“And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. ...”* Matthew 25:25a

*“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”*

Matthew 25:21

*“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”* Malachi 3:10

**Honor God With Your Money And Possessions**

#### JESUS’ STORIES

The Story Of The Talents

Pastor Steve Reynolds

#### INTRODUCTION

**A.** Jesus was a master story teller. The stories He told were called “Parables.” A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus explained why he told these stories,

*“And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables? He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given’”.*

Matthew 13:10-11

He used common subjects and every day experiences to reveal deep truths about God, His kingdom and ourselves.

**B.** There are approximately forty parables in Matthew, Mark and Luke that Jesus taught. This teaching series will focus on eight of these parables that reveal valuable lessons for building your story today. The messages include:

Feb 20 The Story Of The Wise & Foolish Builders

Feb 27 The Story Of The Sower, Seed & Soils

Mar 6 The Story Of The Good Samaritan

Mar 13 The Stories Of The Hidden Treasure & The Pearl Of Great Price

TODAY The Story Of The Talents

Mar 27 The Story Of The Prodigal Son

Apr 3 The Story Of The Rich Man & Lazarus

Apr 10 The Story Of The Great Feast

Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.

**C. TEXT:** Matthew 25:14-30

The Actors:

- The owner is God.
- The talents are money.
- The servants are us!

The Lesson: Honor God with your money and possessions.

## HOW TO HONOR GOD WITH YOUR MONEY AND POSSESSIONS.

### I. SHIFT #1: FROM OWNER TO MANAGER

*“14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.*

*15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, ...”* Matthew 25:14-15a

#### A. God is the owner of all things.

*“The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”* Psalm 24:1

*“‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts.”* Haggai 2:8

#### B. God gives you some of His things to manage.

*“And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, ...”* Deuteronomy 8:18a

*“For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”* I Corinthians 4:7

*“...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”* Luke 12:48b

### II. SHIFT #2: FROM ACCUMULATION TO IMPACT

*“16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*

*17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.*

*18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.”* Matthew 25:16-18

#### A. The one who dies with the most toys does not win.

*“16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

*17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’*

*18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.*

*19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’*

*20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’*

*21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”* Luke 12:16-21

#### B. The one who dies having invested in God’s work wins.

*“19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

*20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”* Matthew 6:19-20

### III. FROM INDEPENDENCE TO ACCOUNTABILITY

*“After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”* Matthew 25:19

#### A. Everyone will be judged.

*“10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

*12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”* Romans 14:10,12

#### B. Faithfulness is the standard of God’s judgement.

*“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* I Corinthians 4:2