



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness – Faithful Stewardship (Matthew 25:21)

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Remember when you were a youth and were given more and more responsibility followed by greater freedom? Those habits learned brought you more opportunity. The powerful principle of faithfulness works for students, employees, managers, public servants, and especially those in God's service.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus taught a hard lesson about faithfulness in contrast to wasted opportunity. However, let's not look backward at our own missteps but take hold of this wisdom teaching. **What opportunities for faithful stewardship are currently in your hands?**

EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES

Matthew 25:14-15 "The Kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, based on their ability. Then he went on his trip". (RSV)

The big picture in this parable is God trusting each one of us as stewards of the opportunities given, perhaps loaned to us for a season.

Talent was a measure of weight in the Hebrew and Greek text. It referred to silver here. One talent of silver was valued at more than a worker's annual wage.

The first servant was given five talents to manage. He traded with them and gained five more. The servant with two gained two more. The servant who was loaned one went and buried it for safe keeping.

REWARDS

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them". (ISV)

The master returned to settle accounts with the stewards. He said to the one who gained five: **"Well done thy good and faithful steward.** You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many; **enter into my joy.**" The steward who gained two from his two **received the same acclaim.**

CONSEQUENCES

Matthew 25:24 "Then the one who had received one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven't planted and gathering where you haven't scattered any seed. Since I was afraid, I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here, take what's yours!' (ISV)

The steward who buried the talent came and returned it, saying he was **afraid**. The owner rebuked the unfaithful steward, took that talent, and entrusted it to that steward who now had ten. This unfaithful steward was dismissed, sent away.

A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Who in the parable might the owner represent?

(Matthew 25:31)

How did the master show wisdom in delegating?

(Matthew 25:15)

Who in the parable represents the three stewards?

(Matthew 25:29)

What character trait is being tested in this drama?

(Matthew 25:21)

Were the same rewards given 5 & 2 talent stewards?

(Matthew 25:28)

What are some consequences of fruitlessness?

(Matthew 25:34 & 24:32-33 & 21:19)

What are rewards of fruitfulness?

(Matthew 25:21 & 25:34)

A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for entrusting me with life, extended years, and a variety of opportunities. Daily YOU are opening my mind to understanding. Please increase my faithfulness so that I might multiply what YOU have given me to steward during my relatively brief season in this life. Give me favor with YOU and the people around me. Show me how to be more fruitful so that I may hear YOU whisper, "Well done, thy good and faithful steward." I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen!