

# Stewarding God's Kingdom – Lessons from the Parable of the Talents

## *Matthew 25:14-30*

### 1. What are we called to Steward? (Every part of our life is a gift from God)

#### Spiritual Capital

- What does it mean to steward God's kingdom?
- Do you believe that God owns every area of your life (including time, talent, treasure, relationships)?
- How do you respond in times of unbelief and doubt about your faith?
- Are there areas in your life where you feel discontent?
- Where do you misplace your identity? What are consequences of finding identity apart from Christ?
- How is your prayer life? What about reading God's Word?
- Are you consistently living a life that is responsive to the Holy Spirit, seasoned with the grace of Jesus and trusting in your good Heavenly Father?

#### Human Capital (time and abilities)

- How do you spend your time?
- Does your life seem busy or hurried?
- How do you handle interruptions in your schedule/agenda?
- Are you using your abilities, education, experience and knowledge for kingdom work?
- Do you see your school, job, parenting, or retirement as a platform for kingdom work?

#### Financial Capital (money)

- Do you consistently and sacrificially give money to Kingdom causes? Why or Why not?
- How have you curtailed your normal spending or saving to be more generous?
- Does your giving produce joy, or regret and guilt?
- How much money is enough?
- What motivates you to give? To save? To spend?
- Is your work (ability to make money) your identity and security and where you find value?

#### Relational Capital

- What are your desires / hopes / dreams for your children?
- Are you more concerned with your child's happiness, comfort and safety than their holiness, faith and pursuit of Gospel risk taking?
- Are you overly dependent on the approval of others, or do you simply not care about others?
- How often do you "use" people for personal gain?
- Are you consistently involved in the discipleship and care of those around you and do you point them to Christ in your words and actions?
- Are you a good and faithful, listening friend that people come to for prayer and counsel?

#### Emotional Capital (hurt, grief, anxiety, trials)

- Do you see trials as opportunities for stewardship?
- Do you blame (or get angry) others, or circumstances, or God when life gets hard?
- Are you emotionally cool or overly dramatic towards others?
- What areas of your life cause the greatest stress/fear?
- When you experience grief how do you respond?

## 2. What does Stewardship look like?

- The Call – vs 14 – We are His and He has a plan for our lives.
- The Entrusting – vs 14 & 15 – We receive different amounts according to our abilities. (One way we find God’s will for our lives is through our limitations and potential.)
- The Time – vs 19 – Our master gives us time and we are held accountable; so long term, consistent perseverance is a must.
- The Return – vs 16, 17, 18, 27 - Risk (faith) is always involved, but even a little interest is OK.
- The Kingdom partnership – vs 21, 23, 28-29

## 3. What are the results?

- Stewardship glorifies our Master, not us - (vs 21 & 23)
  - Results – “Well done”
  - Method – “Good” – at growing the master’s kingdom.
  - Motivation – “Faithful” – purpose in life was to serve his master.
- Stewardship reveals our sin
  - Blame the Master – vs 24 – Who or what do you blame?
  - Live in Fear – vs 25 – What are you afraid of?
  - Run and hide from accountability and responsibility – vs 25
- Stewardship always rewards
  - Slothful servant reward – Loss (vs 28-29) and Judgement (vs. 30)
  - Faithful Servant reward – Joy (vs 21 & 23) and Abundance (vs 29)