

DAILY READING PLAN



Week of May 22, 2022

Arise: Stewardship

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

This week we're reflecting on the Parable of the Talents, exploring a different aspect each day.

Matthew 25:14-30 – ¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. ¹⁶ The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ ²¹ The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ ²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ ²³ The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ ²⁴ Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ ²⁶ But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ ²⁸ Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Day One: Read Matthew 25:14-30

- What talents and resources has the Master entrusted to you? Make a list of at least 10. These could be financial resources, skills, experiences, etc. When you're finished, express your gratitude for all you've been entrusted with.

Day Two: Read Matthew 25:14-30

- Reflecting back on the list you created yesterday, how have you invested each one? How does your investment reflect the priorities of the Master? What “profit” do you think the Master expects from each? How might you need to change your investment strategy?

Day Three: Read Matthew 25:14-30

- In the parable, the first two servants are given more responsibility when the Master returns. What do you think that means? And what might it mean in your life?

Day Four: Read Matthew 25:14-30

- Why didn't the third servant invest what had been entrusted to him? What prevents you from investing what's been entrusted to you? Be honest with yourself. What might need to change in the way you manage what's been given to you?

Day Five: Read Matthew 25:14-30

- The Master has some harsh words for the third servant. Why is the Master so angry? How do you interpret what these words mean? How might they be understood from a place of grace? How do they challenge you?