

# HEAVEN – Our Dual Citizenship and Our True Home

## *Working While Waiting*

### Week 5: WORKING FOR YOUR FATHER

#### (MATT 25:14-30)

**Matthew**

**25:14-30**

**(ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, “You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

#### OVERVIEW OF WEEK 4

**Day 1.** Entrusted (v. 14-15)

**Day 2.** Function of Faith (v.16-18)

**Day 3.** The Accounting (v. 19-26)

**Day 4.** Return on God’s investment (v.20, 22, 25)

**Day 5.** Reward (v. 28-30)

#### VERSES TO MEMORIZE

( ) **Level 1: Matt 25:14-15**

( ) **Level 2: Matt 25:14-30**

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I learned to work from my grandfather. He taught me to start a job promptly, do the job as if you were proud of signing your name to it for the whole world to see and no matter how hard the task stick to it and give it your best and make every effort to finish well. There were times I didn't want to do the job and I wasn't enthused—and I knew if I didn't do it and do it well or demonstrate enough enthusiasm, I would be concerned that he would provide some enthusiasm of his own! As much as I grumbled about work in my younger years, I've seen my grandfather's instruction pay multiple rewards as an adult. The habit of faithfully carrying through on small things has opened many doors to increasing responsibilities and more satisfying rewards.

**GROUP DISCUSSION.** Who has made the most significant impact (positive or negative) on how you work? Be prepared to give a demonstration to the group of how that person motivated you—or failed to motivate you.

**PERSONAL REFLECTION.** What task do you find easiest to put off? What have been the consequences of delay?

In the middle of a long sermon about his future return from heaven to usher in God's kingdom, Jesus told an instructive story or parable about a wealthy man who was leaving on a long journey. Since he wouldn't be able to manage his assets personally, the man entrusted his money to his three servants. His response to each servant's investment strategy will give us new insight into how we are to use what God has entrusted to our care. *Read Matthew 25:14–30.*

1. As you think through this story, what sort of man do you think this master is?

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2. What do you think the first two servants did with the money given to them in order to double it?

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How did the master respond to their resourcefulness?

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3. What do you think of the master's response to the third servant?

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4. Why did the third servant hide his money when he knew the master was “a hard man” who would expect a good return (vv. 24–25)?

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5. What abilities or resources has God entrusted to you?

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6. As you think back through the story, who or what is represented by the wealthy man?

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his journey?

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the servants?

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the talents of money?

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7. If the master returned today, what would he say to you about how you have invested the abilities he has placed in your care?

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8. If we are faithful with what God has now entrusted to us, how will we be rewarded in the future kingdom (vv. 21, 23)?

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9. What will happen if we are like the lazy servant and misuse what God has given us (vv. 28–30)?

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10. What one ability or resource can you use this week to communicate Christ’s love or to do God’s work?

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11. What specific step can you take to remind yourself to manage wisely the gifts God has entrusted to you?

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*Pray and ask God to give you wisdom to see opportunities to serve him with your skills and resources.*

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*(Write your prayer)*

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### **Now or Later**

As your facilitator gives you the opportunity select a number for the final exercise of this lesson. After your Life Group leader has shared the instructions with you carry out the assignment and be prepared to share the results with your life group in the next session.