

Doorway to Transformation 1 **Bible Study on Matthew 25:14-30**

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ ““Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- 1) Which words would you use to describe the master in this parable? The first two servants? The third?

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- 2) Which character, if any, can you relate to (or have you ever related to)?

- 3) In this passage, a talent is equivalent to an enormous sum of money, and the man entrusts these talents to his servants. In the same way, God entrusts each of us with a set of “talents”. How do you feel knowing that God has entrusted you with “talents”?
- 4) In the sermon on Sunday, it was mentioned that there are two different ways that we can view what we’ve been entrusted:

God, it is mine, and I will give you some

OR

God, it is all yours, and I am just a manager

Which of these two perspectives do most people have? Why do you think this is the case?

- 5) The sermon also mentioned that there are different types of “capital” or “talents” that each of us may have besides money, such as wisdom capital or compassion capital. What is one type of “capital” or “talent” that you possess?

- 6) When the third character in the parable was discussed in the sermon, it was noted that many of us have a view of God that distorts our ability to take risks for God. We often think of God as being disappointed with us, as if we “barely making it”. Do you think this description is true of most people? Why is it important to view God as *Abba*, one who loves us freely, before we think about taking risks with our money, time, and energy?

- 7) What are some other reasons why it might be difficult to give or take risks with money, time, and energy?

Doorway to Transformation 1
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8) Reflecting on your life, has giving been a heavy or easy yoke for you? Why do you think this is the case?

9) It was mentioned on Sunday that freedom is found in giving out of who you are, and thus, doing “a few things well.” What are the “few things” that God is calling you to give or take risks on right now? How can you begin to give or take risks in that area?

10) As a church, we hope to do a few things well, and some of those few things include 1) Radical Transformation, 2) Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, 3) An International, multi-racial family, 4) Engaging the poor and marginalized, and 5) Global partnerships. Do you think the above “few” are good descriptions of who we are at New Life Fellowship? Which of the above gets you excited?

11) Complete the following statement by including your name in the blank provided:

“Fantastic, Wonderful _____. Good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things.”

How does it feel to say the words above?

12) When it comes to giving or taking risks, what is your desire for God?

13) When it comes to giving or taking risks, what is God’s desire for you?

14) When it comes to giving or taking risks, what is your primary hindrance?