



“MISSION: Looking For People To Trust”

Matthew 25
Small Group Plan

*Iron rusts from disuse;
stagnant water loses its purity,
and in cold weather becomes frozen:
even so does inaction sap the vigor's of the mind.*

— Leonardo da Vinci

*Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are.*

— Theodore Roosevelt

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Are you more of a saver or a spender? Explain.
- Are you a risk taker? Why or why not?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— ABILITY —

Matthew 25:14-15

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.

- The story begins with “Again ...” What themes or messages are being carried into this story from prior stories?
- This owner “entrusted” his property to his servants. What was their relationship like? How did he feel about them? What did he expect from them?
- If you had been the third servant, would you have felt slighted or grateful for the smaller responsibility? Explain.

— RELIABILITY —

Matthew 25:16-18

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.

- Explain the difference between how the three servants approached their mission?
- Why did the third servant hide what his master had entrusted to him?
- What does this say about his view of his master?
- What does this say about his view of himself?

— ACCOUNTABILITY —

Matthew 25:19-30

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."

- Why was the third servant afraid to risk, while the first servants were not?
- Was the master too harsh or was he justified in his response?
- Which made the master happier: the **use** or the **increase** of his talents? Explain.
- Speculate: What would the master have thought if the third servant had taken the risk others had taken and made an investment, but then lost the money?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What does this parable teach about the value of taking risks?
- As a group think of all the resources available to us. What would be the least risky way to handle each one? How would God feel about such an approach?
- As an individual, what is risky about living faithfully for God?
- As a congregation, how could we take risks for God?
- When you consider how you are “*investing*” your life, do you feel satisfied, do you need to make some changes, do you feel that your life is on hold, or are you unsure about how to proceed?
- How can the group pray for the way you are using the resources God gives you?