

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 22, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days **Topic:** Be Faithful Stewards of God's Resources

Main Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Key verse: Matthew 25:23 – *“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord’”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: We continue our study on ‘the urgency of the last days’. Today’s parable tells of a master who entrusted talents of varying amounts to his servants. He went away, and upon his return, he praised and rewarded the servants who gained profit from employing their talents but punished the servant who hid his talent instead of putting it to use. The talents were distributed to the servants based on their abilities. God did not endow us with identical or necessarily equal gifts, nor does He expect identical or equal results from everyone’s work. (Note that the master equally praised the two faithful servants regardless of the amount gained). What He does expect is that we be fruitful to His glory.

1. (a) What are examples of the talents that God has given to believers? Read Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28. (b) Are talents given to every believer? Why or why not? c) What is the purpose of our talents? Ephesians 4:12-14.

While there are many natural gifts that God has given us to serve Him with such as our finances, resources, skills and abilities, opportunities and platforms, He has specifically entrusted us with spiritual gifts and responsibilities in His Kingdom, of which He fully expects a return on His investment. We must be careful not to place confidence in our natural talents and achievements as being useful to the Kingdom, for the Bible cautions in Zechariah 4:6 during the rebuilding of the temple, *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts”*. God-given work is not fueled by human might or power but by the guidance and empowering of God’s Holy Spirit. It is not acceptable for a believer to hide their gifts or put them on a shelf and ignore them. This amounts to a wasted life and attracts severe consequences. Rather, we are to be “good and faithful” servants by putting our God-given talents to use and being willing to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

2. (a) The call to faithful stewardship begins with us. What does Master Jesus first ask of us? (See John 6:28-29; John 3:3). (b) How can we invest in and multiply our gifts and talents? (See John 15:4). What are some practical ways that we can abide in Jesus Christ? (c) What are some of the things that hold us back from investing our talents? (Read Matthew 25:25-26).

The master returned after some time and settled accounts with his servants. The first and second received their master’s commendations and rewards. The third and lazy servant received condemnation because he failed to put his master’s resources to good use. Jesus is coming soon, and we all will give account of our stewardship (2 Corinthians 5:10). If we serve well in our stewardship, we will be given greater responsibilities. Those who neglect or abuse their talent will have their stewardship taken from them and will reap condemnation.

3. (a) What talents has God specifically entrusted to you? (b) How are you putting your talents to use? (c) What can the church do to encourage people in the use of their talents for the Kingdom of God?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for reminding us today about Your investment in our lives and the fact that You are coming soon to keep account with us. Help us to be faithful in all the areas of Your calling upon our lives, in Jesus’ Name, amen.