



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Parable of the Talents

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this Father's Day sermon, Pastor Daniel walks through the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, one of Jesus' most recognized and wrestled-with parables. A master entrusts his servants with significant resources (five, two, and one bag of gold) before leaving on a long journey. Two servants put their gifts to work and doubled what they were given, while the third buried his out of fear. The master's response reveals that God is not looking for perfection but for faithfulness, effort, and a willingness to take what we've been given and multiply it for His kingdom.

The sermon challenges us to stop comparing our gifts to others and instead recognize that the Master knows exactly what each of us can handle in each season of life. Jesus cares more about our attitudes than our job descriptions. He wants people who show up early, often, with expectation and enthusiasm. Pastor Daniel also reminds us that if we have failed or buried our gifts, Jesus came to

restore the human vocation, lifting us out of apathy and back into fruitful purpose. The central question of the message is simple and direct: What's in your hand, and what are you going to do with it?

Key Passages

- Matthew 25:14-30
- Genesis 1:26-28
- Genesis 2:17-19
- Proverbs 13:20
- Psalm 91

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before you today as a group of people who have each been entrusted with gifts, abilities, and opportunities from your hand. As we open your Word together, we ask that you quiet the noise of comparison and fear in our hearts. Holy Spirit, speak to each of us personally. Show us where we have buried what you have given us, and stir in us a fresh desire to be faithful stewards of your Kingdom. We don't want to just discuss these truths today. We want to be changed by them. Lead this conversation, Lord, and let every word spoken here draw us closer to you and to one another. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one skill, hobby, or ability that comes naturally to you that others often compliment you on or ask for your help with?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. In the parable, the master gives each servant a different amount 'according to his ability.' How does it make you feel to know that God entrusts you with gifts based on what He knows you can handle, rather than giving everyone the same thing?
2. The servant who buried his talent did so out of fear, saying he knew the master was a hard man. Have you ever let a wrong or distorted view of God hold you back from stepping out in faith? What did that look like?
3. Jesus cares more about our attitudes than our job descriptions. What does it look like practically to have the right attitude toward the work God has placed in front of you right now?
4. The two faithful servants went to work 'at once,' without waiting for detailed instructions. Is there an area of your life where you have been waiting for

more clarity or permission before stepping out? What might it look like to just begin?

5. Pastor Daniel shared the mantra his friend Pete used in his business: 'Show up early, often, with expectation and enthusiasm.' How would applying that principle change the way you approach your church involvement, your work, or your relationships?
6. A gift given to the wrong person at the wrong time can quickly become a curse, but when the Master gives you a gift, it means he trusts you and sees you as ready. How does that perspective shift the way you think about the responsibilities and opportunities currently in your life?
7. Jesus came to restore the human vocation, lifting us out of apathy and back into purpose. Is there a gift, calling, or area of service that you have walked away from or let go dormant? What would it take to pick it back up?
8. The master's words to the faithful servants were, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.' What would it mean to you personally to hear those words one day? How does that future hope shape the choices you make today?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, take 15 to 20 minutes to sit quietly and ask God two questions: What has he placed in your hand, and what does He want you to do with it? Write down at least one specific gift, skill, or resource you have been given. Then identify one concrete step you can take this week to put that gift to work for his kingdom, whether that means volunteering, reaching out to someone, starting a project you have been putting off, or simply showing up with a better attitude to something already in front of you. Come back to your group next time ready to share what you heard and what you did.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- God entrusts each person with gifts according to their ability and season of life. The master in the parable is not careless or random. He knows what each servant can handle, and that same truth applies to every person in the room today.
- Jesus cares more about our attitudes than our job descriptions. The faithful servants went to work immediately, without detailed instructions. God is looking for people who will show up early, often, with expectation and enthusiasm, whatever the task.
- Fear and a distorted view of God are the root causes of burying our gifts. The third servant did not fail because he lacked talent. He failed because

he believed the master was against him, and that fear paralyzed him into inaction.

- Jesus came to restore the human vocation. The sermon is not a message of condemnation for those who have failed. It is an invitation to be lifted out of apathy and back into fruitful, purposeful living through the grace of Christ.
- God is looking for multipliers, not hoarders. The master's question at the end of the journey is simply this: What did you do with what I gave you? Faithfulness with what we have been given is the standard, and it leads to greater trust and greater joy.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this time together and for the truth of your Word. You are a generous master who has entrusted each of us with gifts, abilities, and opportunities that are far greater than we often realize. Forgive us for the times we have buried what you gave us out of fear, comparison, or complacency. Today we choose to believe that you are for us, not against us, and that you have placed in our hands exactly what we need for this season. Stir up the gifts within us. Give us the courage to step out, the humility to start small, and the faithfulness to keep going. May we be a people who show up early, often, with expectation and enthusiasm, for your kingdom and your glory. And one day,

Lord, may we hear you say, well done. Until then, keep us close to you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**