

11-11-2018

The Investment

Matthew 25:14-30 ¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag 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. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. 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 two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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 one bag of gold 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. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold 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? ²⁷Well 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“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (NIV)

I. Here are the details of this parable.

- A. A **rich man** was going on a long journey. V 14
- B. Before he went he presented his servants with gold to **invest** for him while he was gone. V. 15
- C. One servant was given **five** bags of gold and he put the money to work and earned **five** more bags of gold. V. 16
- D. Another servant was given **two** bags of gold and he put the money to work and earned **two** more bags of gold. V. 17
- E. The last servant was given just **one** bag of gold and he dug a hole and **buried** the money. V. 18
- F. The master **returned** from his long journey. V. 19
- G. The two servants who earned a return on the master’s investment were given more **responsibilities** and more rewards. V. 21, 23
- H. The servant with the one bag of gold had his one bag taken away and was **thrown out** of the master’s house. V. 30

II. What are some of the truths that are taught in this passage?

A. The Bible constantly affirms a **free** economic system. Forced sharing is not biblical.

Acts 5:4 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

B. Christ is coming back and we will be held **responsible** for what we have done and for what we have not done!

C. It is not up to us to **judge** God. It is our responsibility to **obey** God.

III. How can we interpret this through the parable of the sower?

A. A hard heart will want to know when they are going to get their **bag of gold**.

B. A rocky heart will assert that it is "**my life**" and that they will live it the best way that they can.

C. A weedy heart will complain that they are willing to give God an hour on Sunday but that he better **bless them** for it.

D. A good soil heart will seek to push past their inhibitions and allow themselves to be stretched for more **effectiveness** towards Kingdom minded issues.