



Rock Point Church
Bill Bush | 11.10.2024

BIG IDEA | An ideal life is an invested life.

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant

into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Two principles for investing in my life:
Everything I have really belongs to God.

God has given me talents.

tal·ent

/'talənt/

noun

Anything God has entrusted to me...

Abilities

Resources

Opportunities

God expects me to use my talents.

God will ask, "What did you do with what you were given?"

Recognize your talents and respond as a manager, not an owner.

Two principles for investing in my life:
Everything I have really belongs to God.
I can't please God by playing it safe.

Three kinds of fear:

Self-doubt - "I can't" or "I won't try"

Self-pity - "Poor me" or "I don't know"

Self-consciousness - "How will I look?"

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you about this week's sermon?

2. How do you feel about the idea that everything we have – our abilities, resources, and opportunities – ultimately belongs to God? How does this perspective impact how you view and use your "talents"?

3. In what ways do you see yourself investing your talents for God's purposes? Are there areas in your life where you might be "burying" what you've been given? What might you be missing that God wants you to be a part of?

4. Fear plays a big role in this parable, especially for the servant who hid his talent. How do you relate to the fears mentioned (self-doubt, self-pity, self-consciousness), and how have these fears affected your choices?

5. Reflect on the question, "What did you do with what you were given?" How might God be calling you to use your talents differently or more boldly?

6. How can we, as a group, encourage one another to overcome fear and step out in faith to invest our talents? Are there specific ways we can support each other in this?