

Sacred Roots: Use What You Have (Week 8)
Unearthing Who We Are, Planting Who We Will Be
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I. Introduction

Stewardship-

Responsibility-

Faithfulness-

- Icebreaker: Share an example from your life where you took a risk or used your talents for God's purposes. What were the outcomes?

1. Reading and Context (Matthew 25:14–30):

- Main elements of the story:
 - Master- Wealthy Man/ Jesus
 - Servants- Individuals/ Believers of Jesus Christ
 - Talents- Money/ Gifts, abilities, and resources
 - Time
 - Outcomes

2. The Gifts God Entrusts to Us: ABILITY (v.14-15)

- Discuss the meaning of "talents" as both monetary units and metaphorically representing the various gifts and resources God gives us.
- **Discussion Questions:**

What gifts and talents do you have? What do you think the parable of the talents teaches us about God's expectations for us?

3. Responsibility and Stewardship:

- Explore the **concept of stewardship** – our responsibility to manage and use God-given resources for His purposes.
- How can we be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and resources in our daily lives?

Invest Like the Faithful Servants: Just as the faithful servants invested and multiplied their talents, actively invest your time, talents, and resources into endeavors that align with God's purposes and bring about spiritual growth.

Overcome Fear of Failure: Learn from the third servant's fear-driven inaction, and don't let fear hinder you from using your talents. Step out in faith, trusting God will guide and bless your efforts.

Use Your Gifts for Growth: Recognize that your talents symbolize the various gifts and abilities God has given you. Use these gifts not only for personal gain but also for the growth of God's kingdom and the betterment of others.

Discussion Questions:

- **Why do you think the third servant chose to bury his talent?** What fears or misconceptions might have influenced his decision? In what ways can the concept of stewardship be applied beyond just financial resources?

4. Diligence and Risk-taking:

- **Faith v. Calculated risks** (in using our talents for God's kingdom)
 - Can there be one present without the other? Can they Coexist?

Faith:

- Faith involves trusting in God's wisdom, guidance, and promises without always having complete knowledge or certainty about the outcome.

- It often requires stepping into the unknown, relying on God's character, and believing that He will work things out for the best.

Calculated Risk:

- A calculated risk involves making informed decisions after considering potential outcomes, benefits, and drawbacks.
- It doesn't necessarily require a strong element of uncertainty; instead, it's about assessing the situation and making a strategic move that has a higher probability of success.

Discussion Questions:

- How can we strike a balance between being responsible with our talents and taking risks for God's kingdom?

5. Faithfulness and Reward:

- Examine the master's response to the faithful servants – "Well done, good and faithful servant." What does this indicate about God's view of faithfulness?
- (v.24) Afraid of God? Preserve than to Take Risks?

Discussion Questions:

- How does this parable challenge our understanding of success and reward in the Kingdom of God? **What would your success/reward be?**

7. Application and Reflection:

- How can we practically apply the lessons from this parable in our lives?
- What are some ways we can identify and develop the talents God has given us?

- How can we overcome fear and reluctance in using our talents for God's purposes?
- In what areas of our lives might we need to take more risks or demonstrate greater faithfulness?

Conclusion & Notes:
