

# His v. Mine

## How God Uses Money, part 1

March 1, 2015

The next four weeks we'll be looking at how God uses money in our lives. We think of money in terms of assets to spend. God thinks of it as a tool to shape. He shapes our purpose, meaning, character, behavior, relationships, etc.

### DAY 1: The unintended consequences of "mine".

*Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup>for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.*

1. We typically think of "our" stuff--our time, our money, our relationships, etc. Is that an accurate portrayal?
  
  2. What's wrong about it being "ours?"
  
  3. When we think of our stuff as belonging to us, we immediately add layers of stress, worry and fear, and anger to our lives. Think of an example for each of these problems:
    - a. Stress -
    - b. Fear -
    - c. Worry -
    - d. Anger -
- Matthew 25:14 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*
4. This is the first part of the Parable of the Talents. Make a list of observations you make about "the owner," especially in v.14.
  
  5. What does "entrusted" mean?
  
  6. What parallels are there between "the master" and God?
  
  7. God has entrusted you with what you have? Is it His or yours?

## **DAY 2: Investing God's resources**

*Matthew 25:14 Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called **his servants** and **entrusted his property** to them.*

<sup>15</sup> *To one **he gave five talents of money**, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

<sup>16</sup> *The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more.*

<sup>17</sup> *So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.*

<sup>18</sup> *But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

1. A "talent" was a piece of money that was worth about \$1,000 in today's money. What does the owner do with his resources with the three servants? (v.15)

2. Why does he give more to some, less to others? (v.15)

3. What did the owner expect the servants to do with the owner's property/talents? (vv. 15-17)

4. God has given you **resources**. How do you think you are **investing** in each of these areas? Jot down your thoughts...

a. Time -

b. Money -

c. Relationships -

d. Your heart -

e. Work -

f. Ministry to others -

### **DAY 3: Accountability and motivation**

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup> "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!'

1. What did the owner do when he returned from his journey?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What strikes you about their interchange? How would you describe their relationship?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. One day, God will "settle accounts" with you. We are "accountable" for how we use the resources God entrusts to us. Why is being accountable a good thing? What benefits can you think of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Accountability is an extrinsic motivator. It is a motivation that comes from outside of us. Intrinsic motivation comes from within. Do you sense an intrinsic motivation by the servant who received five talents? What does the servant want to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. You will be held accountable for how you invested the resources God entrusted to you.
  - a. How can the idea of outward accountability help you invest God's resources wisely?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How can the idea of inward motivation help you invest God's resources wisely? Jot down your thoughts next to any of the following which strikes a chord with you:
    - \* Do you want to please Him?
    - \* Honor Him?
    - \* Know your life mattered for something significant and eternal?
    - \* Sense that you did what was right?
    - \* Other?

## **DAY 4: Rewards!**

*Matthew 25:20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'*

<sup>21</sup> *"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!'*

<sup>22</sup> *"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'*

<sup>23</sup> *"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!'*

1. The owner settled accounts with all three. Today, we'll look at the first two. What had the first servant done with the talents entrusted to the first servant? (v.20)

2. What had the second servant done with the talents? (v.22)

3. What was the response of the master to both men? (vv.21, 23) Was there any difference in his response? How does that strike you?

4. Someday, God could say those very words to you! What do you need to do this week to move in the direction of better stewardship of God's resources entrusted to you? Are there any action items to better invest His resources?

a. Time?

b. Money?

c. Relationships?

d. Heart?

e. Work?

f. Ministry to others?

## DAY 5: Excuses and blame

*Matthew 25:24 "Then the man who had received the one talent 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.*

*<sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'*

*<sup>26</sup> "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?*

*<sup>27</sup> Well 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.*

*<sup>28</sup> "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.*

*<sup>29</sup> For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.*

*<sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

1. What did the third servant do with the owner's talents entrusted to him? (v.25)

2. Why? The third servant reveals his thinking! He accuses his master of being unscrupulous, unjust, and uncaring. Since the "master" represents God in this parable, we conclude that the third servant's assessments of his master are wrong. They are an indictment on him! List his "reasons" for NOT investing the talents?

v. 24 ---(1) \_\_\_\_\_

v.24 ---(2) \_\_\_\_\_

v. 24 ---(3) \_\_\_\_\_

v.25 ---(4) \_\_\_\_\_

v.25 ---(5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus puts his fingers on two other issues. What are they? (v.26)

4. What consequences befell the third servant? (28-30)

5. This is serious stuff. What do you need to make a priority regarding your stewardship of God's talents to you?