

sermon study guide

Speaker: Henry Schorr

Date: November 28/29 2020

Sermon Title: The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like... Part 11: The Parable of the Bags of Gold

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. When it comes to finances would you say you are more of a 'saver', a 'spender' or an 'investor'? What influences your decisions?
2. If you were going away on a long journey who would you entrust to look after things for you? Why would you choose that person?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Matthew 25:14-30

3. What were the master's expectations of his servants while he was away? What do each of the servants' words and actions tell you about the relationship they had with their master?
4. From this Scripture, what are the rewards for faithful investment of God's resources? What are the consequences of not investing?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Henry indicated that one might be tempted to bury our 'gold' out of fear, failures or fairness. Describe how each of these could be a hindrance. Which of these do you struggle most to overcome?
6. Take time to encourage one another by sharing what gifts you see in each other. What do you think is your main gifting? What practical step could you take this week to work out what you have heard for God's kingdom?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Consider doing an inventory on your calendar and expenses to see where your time and resources are being spent. Pray that God would help you activate what he has given you, for his glory and purposes.

THE WORD (NIV)

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. ¹⁵ To 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. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But 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. ²⁰ The 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. ²⁵ So 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? ²⁷ 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.'

²⁸ "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For 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. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

sermon study summary

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...Part 11: The Parable of the Bags of Gold **November 28/29, 2020** **Pastor Henry Schorr**

We live in a time best described as a 'world disrupted' where everything is in upheaval. Truth is difficult to discern. The need for discernment is paramount. Only Scripture and the ministering of the Holy Spirit reveals the promises of God that we must take hold of to avoid fear, dismay and deception. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Matthew 25 follows two chapters where Jesus had been teaching about signs preceding His return. Jesus implicitly declared that we must stay alert, however, we must not become so preoccupied with watching for His return that we lose focus in advancing His Kingdom work.

In Matthew 25:14-30 a wealthy man entrusts significant gold to three of his servants before departing on a journey. This action significantly impacted the lives of both the master and his servants. On the master's return he then met with his servants for an accounting of their actions. He was pleased with the two who'd invested his money though displeased with the one who had buried it. Similarly, what we do with what Jesus entrusts to us while awaiting His return will impact His Kingdom, and reveal the state of our heart and where we stand with God. We must see that:

1. God owns it all (v. 14). The servants were entrusted to do with the money what they believed their master would do with it. As are we. We do not own our health, wealth, lives, talents or gifts. They are given to us to advance His purposes to His glory.
2. God gives it to all (v. 15). The servants were not treated equally but were treated fairly. There is no such thing as a 'no talent person'.
3. God gives us freedom to make choices (vv. 16,18). Like the servants, God gives us the choice to decide how, where and when we might use what He has entrusted us with.
4. God holds us accountable for our choices (vs 19). Our actions and character demonstrate our faith in Him. His rewards include commending us, granting us more responsibility, and inviting us to celebrate with Him.

What are you doing with what God has given you? The 'one bag' servant did not know, trust, respect or obey his master. He didn't even try. God will fulfill His purposes – through you or through another who will. If you bury your talents you will not only lose them but also lose great opportunity for partnering with God. One might bury their talent through:

1. Fear. Do you want to remain in control (Mark 8:34)? Taking up your cross is saying yes to God's call despite fear, uncertainty or circumstances (1 John 4:18). It declares that Jesus is enough. Your goal is to advance His Kingdom, not your own.
2. Failures that you believe disqualify you? Grasp His grace as Paul the Apostle did (Phil 3:12).
3. Fairness. You believe God prefers others because they have more talents than you. Thus you excuse yourself to sit on the sidelines feeling you have little to offer. God has designed and gifted us differently but loves us all the same and wants us to use what we have.

Are you faithful with what you have been given? You can either bury that treasure or give thanks, pursuing Him and His kingdom by using what you have for His glory. This is our only time. What we do with it matters to Christ and to those around us. Give yourselves to it fully (1 Cor 15:58).