
Reaching The Lost
Commissioned for Greatness Part 3

The Parables of Matthew 25

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Overview

This week we will continue our study of reaching the lost by continuing through Parables that Jesus spoke in Matthew 25.

So far, in this series, “Reaching the Lost – Commissioned for Greatness”, we have talked about the need to Share the Gospel and the acts of love and compassion. This week, we will talk about putting our faith into action by looking at the parable of the Bags of Gold (Matthew 25:14-30).

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

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.’

What is this parable about?

Look at Matthew 24 – Jesus begins explaining that the End Times will come. The parables explain what will happen at this time.

More to this than just the end times. Jesus is setting his expectations for his true followers in the Parables found in Matthew 25.

There should be external evidence to support one’s faith in Christ.

Evidence includes

1. How we think

2. How we treat others

This parable does not suggest we can earn our salvation. This is setting the expectations of being a follower of Christ.

There is a price!

But the reward of doing the Lord's work is far more valuable to our lives than the cost to follow.

Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23,

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”

In James 25:25-26, Jesus' brother states:

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead”

Invest in the things of God

Invest in the things will have eternal life.

Luke 12:33

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

To follow Christ means to do the things Christ did. It means to allow Him to open your heart to those whom He puts on your heart. It means to sometimes deny yourself.

1. Sometimes we must give up some TV time.
2. Maybe, we might forgo something we really want to help someone who really needs
3. Sometimes it means driving an extra 20 miles to pray for someone who is broken.
4. Sometimes it means picking up the phone during your lunch break and shortening your lunch time?

Let's not be a church of complacency, but a church that backs our faith with the deeds.