

# CAMPFIRE

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

# STORIES

PART 3: WELL DONE

Pastor Matt Harder

## Matthew 25:19-26

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> 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.’

<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 two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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!’

<sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold 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?

Use this guide for personal and family devotions and weekly groups.

# SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 25:19-26**

Watch this week's message online: [nlchurch.com/watch](http://nlchurch.com/watch).

## OBSERVATION

Often referred to as the Parable of the Talents, this fascinating story told by Jesus is often misrepresented and misunderstood, but contains valuable truths.

As we've seen throughout the last several weeks' parables, inclusion and invitation into the Kingdom of God are critical themes of Jesus' message. This story highlights the necessity of sharing the Kingdom with others. The temptation to hold the profound teachings of the Gospel must be contested, and we must learn that even a little investment yields great rewards. Caution and fear are not celebrated virtues in Christ's community, and we must be generous with the Gospel.

- 1 Two men yield returns from their investment. How does the master respond to each? What does this seem to indicate?
- 2 Why is the third man afraid of the master? What do you think this means?
- 3 What is the master's response to the third man?

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# APPLICATION

We are often hesitant or fearful to share our faith. All too often, we justify our fear or make excuses about why we keep the message of the Gospel to ourselves. But if we truly believe that Jesus' message is a true joy to all who receive it, and can make the difference in life, we need to be open to inviting those around us into full participation in the Kingdom of God and enjoy the rewards of faith.

- 1 What excuses do we often make for not sharing our faith?
- 2 How can we fight against those?
- 3 What about the Gospel most resonates with you?  
How can you share that?

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# PRAYER

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My take away today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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