



BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 2

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Explore It

What does it say?

1. Fill in the chart below:

Servant	Action with talents	Return on investment	Master's reaction
#1			
#2			
#3			

2. What was the excuse that the third servant gave for not investing his talent?

Get It

What do you think it means?

1. Why do you think the master in Jesus' story was thrilled with the first two servants?
2. Why do you think the master in Jesus' story was so harsh with the third servant?
3. With what talents or resources has God entrusted you?
4. What are the risks and rewards of investing your gifts for God's service?

Apply It

How do you think it applies to your life?

1. In what ways can you be a good and faithful servant?
2. What resources do you think you need to commit to Christ's use at this time in your life?

Notes

Matthew 25:15

The master divided the money (talents) among his servants according to their abilities. No one received more or less than he could handle. If he failed in his assignment, his excuse could not be that he was overwhelmed. Failure could come only from laziness or hatred toward the master. The talents represent any kind of resource we are given. God gives us time, gifts, and other resources according to our abilities, and he expects us to invest them wisely until he returns. We are responsible to use well what God has given us. The issue is not how much we have, but how well we use what we have.

Matthew 25:21

Jesus is coming back—we know this is true. Does this mean we must quit our jobs in order to serve God? No, it means we are to use our time, talents, and treasures diligently in order to serve God completely in whatever we do. For a few people, this may mean changing professions. For most of us, it means doing our daily work out of love for God.

MATTHEW 19:16-26

Explore It

What does it say?

1. What question was asked of Jesus at the beginning of the story?
2. What astonishing claim did the young man make?
3. What amazing statement did Jesus make to the disciples about riches and the kingdom of God?
4. How did the disciples respond when they heard how hard it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Get It

What do you think it means?

1. When the rich young man said that he had kept all the commands, do you think he really had? (See note below on this verse.)
2. Why do you think many poor people have a great love for God and many rich people seem to have no interest in God?
3. Why do you think it is that we so often do not become more generous as our wealth increases?

4. Why do you think we are so reluctant to make sacrifices for God, even though over and over in the Scriptures there are promises of great reward?

Apply It

How do you think it applies to your life?

1. Where is this passage speaking to you today?

Notes

Matthew 19:16

To this man seeking assurance of eternal life, Jesus pointed out that salvation does not come from good deeds unaccompanied by love for God. The man needed a whole new starting point. Instead of adding another commandment to keep or good deed to perform, the young man needed to submit his life humbly to Christ.

Matthew 19:17

In response to the young man's question about how to have eternal life, Jesus told him to keep God's Ten Commandments. Jesus then listed six of them, all referring to relationships with others. When the young man replied that he had kept the commandments, Jesus told him that he must do something more—sell everything and give the money to the poor. Jesus' statement exposed the man's weakness. In reality, his wealth was his god, his idol, and he would not give it up. Thus he violated the first and greatest commandment (Exodus 20:3; Matthew 22:36-40).

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11

Explore It

What does it say?

1. According to this text, how should we give and why?
2. What promise does God give to believers who do give generously?
3. What results in the generosity of Christians?

Get It

What do you think it means?

1. What do you think this passage tells you about the relationship between our Christian faith and giving?
2. What do you think a reluctant giver could do to become more of a cheerful giver?
3. What do you think it means for you to “decide.” In other words, what is the process that you use to help you determine what amount and where you will give this year?

Apply It

How do you think it applies to your life?

1. When will you set aside time to decide what you are giving and where your giving will be this year?

Notes

2 Cor. 9:6-8

People may hesitate to give generously to God if they worry about having enough money left over to meet their own needs. Paul assured the Corinthians that God was able to meet their needs. The person who gives only a little will receive only a little in return. Don't let a lack of faith keep you from giving freely and generously.

2 Cor. 9:10

God gives us resources to use and invest for him. Paul uses the illustration of seed to explain that the resources God gives us are not to be hidden, foolishly devoured, or thrown away. Instead, they should be cultivated in order to produce more crops. When we invest what God has given us in his work, he will provide us with even more to give in his service.