

**Devotional****Saved for Service****May 30, 2021**

*In keeping with Sunday's detailed look at Matthew 25:14–30, we will stay located in that scripture all week, so please be reading this passage throughout the week.*

**Monday**

Focused on v. 14

Jesus is telling us what the last judgment will be like, it will be like a man going on a journey, and that man is Jesus. Jesus is telling his disciples that this man is going on a trip and later in the teaching the man will return. Jesus first came to earth to call people to be his servants and will return a second time to check on the quality of their service. He has come to recruit (discipleship) and he will come again to evaluate (judge) the nature of their service. Note then that this teaching is directed at those who are Jesus' disciples, not those who are not.

The man calls his own servants – the Greek puts emphasis on the fact that the man is calling his own servants – and isn't just calling people off the street to entrust with his property. The servants are treated like responsible adults and given important duties to steward his vast fortune. *Jesus' followers are not only saved from sin, but we are saved for service.*

How does framing your salvation as not only saved *from* sin but also saved *for* service alter your view of salvation and what God's future holds?

**Tuesday**

Focused on v. 15

A talent is probably a lifetimes' worth of wages – so five talents is really a lot! Thinking more broadly, talents for us are opportunities with our time, talent, resources, and relationships. Every opportunity we are given is a talent we can use for God.

The master then goes away on the trip without giving specific instructions on what to do with the talents or when he'd be back. It seems that Jesus is figuring that if you have been his disciple, sat at his feet, and are walking through life with him that you will know what you are supposed to do. So, let's keep it simple: what are you supposed to do with the talents the Lord has given you today?

**Wednesday**

Focused on vv. 16-18

The five-talent servant and the two-talent servant are active – they move out, work, and win more. The one-talent servant is passive – the servant scuttles away and buries the talent.

Sometimes, I think we Christians are taught and led to believe that we must be very cautious, and very concerned with safety and security. There is a time for caution and looking out for safety and security in life, but those aren't meant to be the primary drivers of life. We are meant to take good risks! The talent(s) that God gives us are meant to be used, not hidden. They are meant to be used for God's mission.

So, today, prayerfully consider these three questions: what are your "talents"? What is God's mission? How do your talents and God's mission come together to glorify Jesus?

**Thursday**

Focused on vv. 19-27

The results of the use of talents have come in and the active servants are rewarded and the passive servant is chewed out.

The five-talented acknowledges that it was the Lord who gave him the talents and now the servant is excited to have made five more talents. The servant is rejoicing and we, too, are allowed – indeed, encouraged – to rejoice in the work that has proved fruitful in the Lord's name. There is joy in the work, we do not need to try to weigh ourselves down with expectations of overwrought humility. *Rejoice in what the Lord has given you and what you, in faith, have been blessed to do with it!* Jesus wants you to feel good about your work!

The one-talented servant is in for a world of hurt – why?

**Friday**

Please read and prayerfully reflect upon Matthew 25:1-13 as we prepare for Sunday worship.cooks

