

Clash of Kingdoms
Matthew 25:14-30
Study Guide

Big Idea: The Awe of Production!

1. Read Matthew 25:14. Notice that Christ, our Master, seems to be delayed. What does it mean for you to see yourself as a servant and steward of Christ? How does that play itself out in the way you live your life?
2. Read Matthew 25:15-18. Notice that the emphasis is not on how much you have, but on what you do with what you have. Discuss what your ‘talents’ might be, and what God has placed in your hands to invest. What is the goal of production/investment? (see also Isaiah 61:1 and Mark 16:15). Discuss.
3. Read Matthew 25:19-23. How exciting to know that God sees everything we invest in His Kingdom. Describe what it will be like when Jesus returns and praises you for what you did. Will that be the end of the story or just the beginning? Discuss.
4. Read Matthew 25:24-30. Why do you think the person with one talent didn’t really know the Master? Why do you think the Master calls him “...wicked and slothful.”? Discuss what may have been meant by that.

Application

What difference does it make in your life to know Christ? Do you believe that God can produce “fruit” through you? Is there something hindering you from investing and taking risks? What could be a next step for you?

Message Slides

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Big Idea: The Awe of Production!

A. The Journey (v.14)

¹⁴For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

B. Distribution and Investment (v.15-18)

¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Goal of Production

Isaiah 61:1

“O bind up the brokenhearted, comfort the fatherless, set at liberty the captives, and proclaim the gospel to the poor.”

>on mouse click<

Mark 16:15

“Go into all the world and preach the good news...”

C. The Awe of Production (v. 19-23)

¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

D. The Tragedy of Missed Opportunity (v.24-28)

²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.

D. The Tragedy of Missed Opportunity (v.24-28)

²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

E. The Reality of the Outcome (v.29-30)

²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Big Idea: The Awe of Production!

>after song, Yet not I, but Christ Through Me<

Reflection

(60 sec. each)

1. What difference does it make in your life to know Christ?
2. Are you taking any risks to share the gospel or help someone less fortunate? What could be a next step for you?