

THE MASTER'S MONEY



◆ INTRODUCTION ◆

Has anyone ever asked you to take care of money or something valuable for them? Have you ever received a reward for taking care of something for someone? In this parable, Jesus talks about a master who asked his servants to take care of his money while he was away. The master later returned. He found that two servants had taken care of the money very well. But one servant had not done so. As you read this parable, try to think about how it might relate to you. Also, how might it relate to God?

◆ BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 25:14-30 ◆

14 "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. **15** He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. **16** The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. **17** In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. **18** But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. **19** "After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. **20** The servant who had received five

thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. "You gave me five thousand coins, sir," he said. "Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned." **21** "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!" **22** Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned." **23** "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!" **24** Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed." **25** I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you." **26** "You bad and lazy servant!" his master said. "You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed?" **27** Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. **28** Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. **29** For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. **30** As for this useless servant—throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth."



◆ VOCABULARY ◆

reward (n.) – something that one is given because he has performed or behaved well

in charge of (prep. phr.) – when someone is responsible for managing or leading

(to) invest (v.) – to use money in a way that one hopes will increase its value

(to) earn (v.) – to receive money in return for work that one does

(to) settle accounts (v. phr) – to go through the process of payment or counting money

faithful (adj.) – can be trusted to serve, follow, or obey (refers more to belief and attitude)

(to) manage (v.) – to oversee or be responsible for controlling

(to) deposit (v.) – to put money into a bank or savings account

gifts and talents (n.) – special abilities that people have

◆ QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE READING ◆

1. What did the first two servants do with their master's money?

2. What did the last servant do with his master's money?

3. Why did the master feel differently about the first servants and the last?

4. What did the master say to the last servant?

5. What should the servants do with what the master gives them?

◆ **KEY VERSE: MATTHEW 25:21** ◆

“Well done, you good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!”

◆ **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS** ◆

1. How is the good servant faithful?

2. How will the master reward the faithful servant?

3. In the Kingdom of heaven, who is the master and who are the servants?

◆ **APPLYING THE VOCABULARY TO YOUR LIFE** ◆

*Answer the questions using the **bolded** vocabulary words.*

1. What is something that others have put you **in charge of**?

2. Are you **faithful** to God or others? How?

3. What **rewards** do you get from your work?

4. How can you **invest** your money?

◆ CONCLUSION ◆



In this parable Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of heaven. Think about it. Who is the master and who are the servants? GOD is the master and we are the servants. We need to understand that anything good we have comes from God. We must use what He has given us wisely. This is not just money. It also includes our gifts and talents. We should not waste or be lazy with the things God gives us. God will look

at what we have done with what He's given us here on Earth. We want Him to be pleased with us. When He is, He invites us to come into His Kingdom and share His happiness. Will you invest your time, money and talents wisely to serve God and help others? If so, how will you do this?



FOR FURTHER STUDY, SEE 1 PETER 4:10.

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