

Sermon-Based Questions
May 26, 2019
Ted Voltmer

Entrusted
Matthew 25:14-30

Introduction (choose 1):

1. What's the difference between being *given* something and being *entrusted* with something?
2. Name some things that God has entrusted you with.
 - How does your mindset on these things change knowing they weren't give to you, but rather entrusted to you?

Understanding (choose 4-6):

3. *Read Matthew 25:14-15.* What do we learn in this passage about recognizing our gifts?
4. Consider the master dividing up the talents:
 - Does the master divide the talents up evenly?
 - Do you think it was fair how the talents were divided? Explain your answer.
5. *Read Matthew 25:20-23.* Why did the master say, "Well done good and faithful servant", to both servants even though one earned back quite a bit more than the other?
6. Why did the third servant make the decisions that he made with the talents he was given?
7. Pastor Ted explained that, "If we want to hear, 'Well done, good and faithful servant', start by learning what's close to God's heart. What things do you know of that are close to God's heart?"
8. Why can fear be such a powerful weapon for Satan?
9. *Read Matthew 25:21*
 - What is the meaning of the master saying, "Come and share in your master's happiness"?
 - How have you experienced sharing your master's happiness when it comes to your relationship with God?

Application:

10. What things in your life make God happy, but are also rewarding to you? Take time to pray that you can honor God and serve Him with the gifts He has given you.

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Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend an *entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

19 After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 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." 21 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!"

-Matthew 25:19-21

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

-Ephesians 4:11-13

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and out in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

-Mark 12:41-44