



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide
Matthew 25: 14-30 | June 21, 2026
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I. Introduction to this Study

This week, we are taking some time to share more about our recent Young Adult Mission Trip to Zambia by looking through the lens of a parable Jesus uses to illustrate how we are to use our gifts and talents to serve him. While we will not spend much time digging into the Passage this Sunday during worship, this study guide will serve as a deeper dive into the text itself. This parable is not primarily about financial investment. It is about faithful stewardship while we wait for Christ's return. Everything we have—our abilities, resources, opportunities, relationships, and time—has been entrusted to us by God. The question is not how much we have been given, but whether we are faithful with what we have received.

While we hear stories from our Zambia team, may we have the courage to take stock of what has been entrusted to us and be emboldened to use whatever we have to honor and serve the Lord, the giver of all good gifts.

II. Connecting with One Another

Tell about a time when someone trusted you with an important responsibility.

What makes it easier or harder to take responsibility for something that belongs to someone else?

III. Study the Text

Read **Matthew 25:14–15**

- What does the master entrust to his servants? Why do you think the master gives different amounts to each servant? What does this reveal about the master's knowledge of his servants?
- How might this relate to the different gifts, opportunities, and resources God gives people today?

Read **Matthew 25:16–18**

- How do the first two servants respond to what they have been given? How does the third servant respond?



- What differences do you notice between the actions of the first two servants and the third? What motivations seem to be driving each servant?

Read **Matthew 25:19–23**

- What happens when the master returns? What does the master praise in the first two servants?
- Why is it significant that both servants receive the same commendation even though they managed different amounts?
- What do you think Jesus means by, "You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much"?

Read **Matthew 25:24–27**

- How does the third servant describe the master? What role does fear seem to play in his decision-making?
- Do you think his view of the master is accurate? Why or why not?
- How can fear keep believers from serving God faithfully?

Read **Matthew 25:28–30**

- Why does the master take away the talent from the third servant?
- What does this reveal about God's expectations for those who have received his gifts?
- How does this ending challenge common assumptions about safety and risk?

IV. Application

- What gifts, opportunities, or responsibilities has God entrusted to you in this season of life?
- Which servant do you most identify with and why?
- Are there areas where fear, insecurity, comfort, or procrastination are keeping you from serving God?
- What would faithful stewardship look like this week in your family, workplace, church, or community?
- How can our Life Group encourage one another to use our gifts for God's kingdom?

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God for the gifts, opportunities, and resources he has entrusted to you.
- Confess areas where fear, complacency, or selfishness have hindered faithful stewardship.
- Ask God for wisdom to recognize opportunities to serve him.
- Pray for courage to use your gifts faithfully, even when the outcome feels uncertain.
- Pray that God would use your Life Group to bless others and advance his kingdom.

