

Faithful Stewardship: Using God-Given Talents Wisely

Matthew 25:14-30

Presented by:
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Background Context

Speaker: Jesus

Audience: Jesus' Disciples

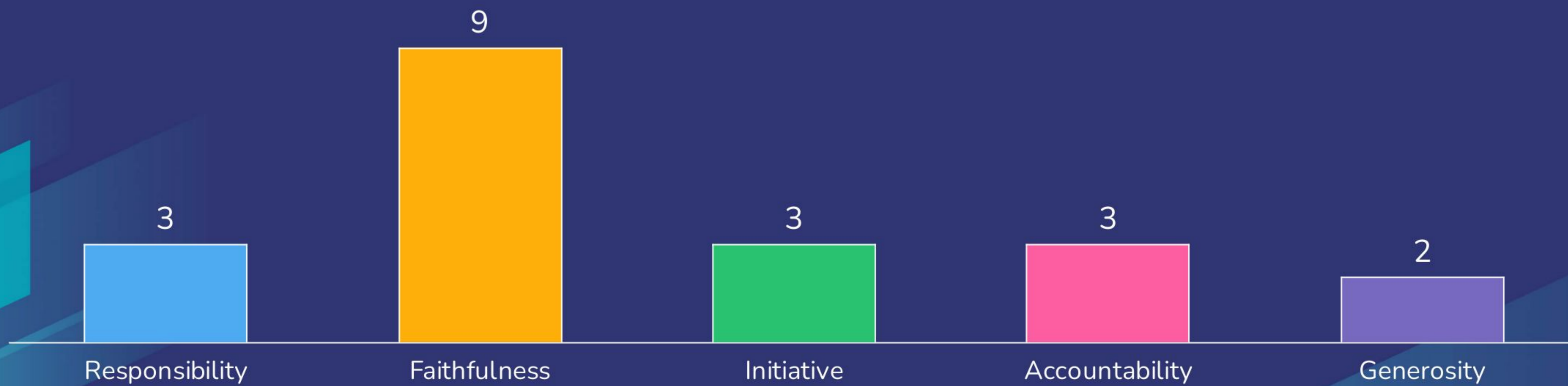
Why: Jesus is speaking privately to his disciples about preparing for his Second Coming. Jesus tells a story about two faithful servants who are rewarded for increasing their master's wealth and estate.

Lesson Aim: Hearers will understand the importance of using God-given talents responsibly and faithfully for the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 25:14-15

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

Which of the following do you believe is the most important aspect of stewardship?



1. Stewardship and Trust:

God entrusts each of us with different talents and expects us to use them responsibly to multiply his estate.

- The master entrusts his property to his servants, expecting them to manage it wisely. This illustrates that God entrusts us with various resources—time, talents, money, and opportunities—and expects us to use them responsibly for His purposes.

Stewardship: The responsibility to manage and utilize resources entrusted to us.

What is His purpose: That his servants/disciples spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God and pointing others to Christ. We can do this by building relationships, serving others and speaking of God's glories to others. For us to be his disciples (Faithful followers) and make more disciples.

Reference: Matthew 28:19-20

What are some talents or resources has God entrusted us with?



Life Application

- **Identify and Use Your Talents:** Reflect on your skills and passions to understand the unique gifts God has given you. Use them to serve others and advance God's Kingdom in your church, community, or workplace
- **Stay Humble and Grateful:** Acknowledge that all talents are gifts from God, maintaining humility and gratitude, and giving thanks regularly for your abilities.

Matthew 25:16-18

¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

2. Take the initiative:

The first two servants take the initiative, while the third acts out of fear.

- The first servant went at once to put his talents to work and so did the second. Using our talents often involves stepping out in faith and taking risks.
- Taking the initiative requires boldness, making decisions despite uncertainty, and having the courage to take risks in alignment with God's purposes.
- **Reference James 2:17**

What are some ways we can use our talents for God's Kingdom?

Participating in ministries that align with our talents.

Witnessing

Humble yourself

Sharing our testimonies

To build it up.

Helping the less fortunate

Interact with the community

Being a listening ear

Being the Bible to the unchurch

To help it to grow

To help people who may be in need of resources

Life Application

- **Take Risks in Faith:** Step out of your comfort zone, trusting God to guide you. Overcome fear with prayer, making bold decisions that honor God.
- **Be Faithful and Diligent:** Show reliability and excellence in even the smallest tasks, knowing that faithfulness in little things leads to greater responsibilities.

Matthew 25:19-23

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!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “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!’

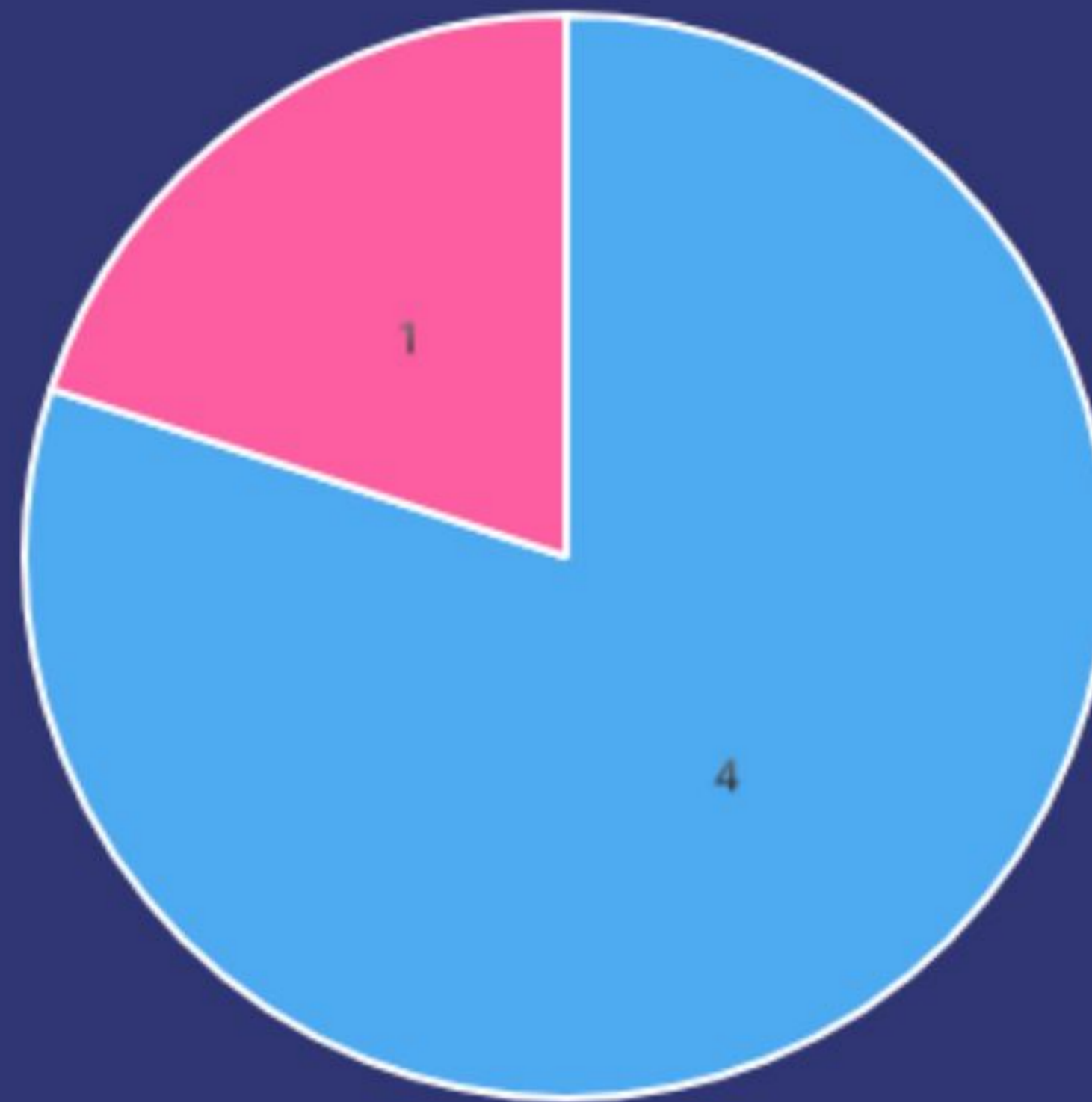
3. Accountability and reward:

The master rewards the faithful servants, highlighting the principle of accountability and reward.

- The first two servants are commended for their faithfulness in doubling the talents given to them. The faithful servants are rewarded with increased responsibilities and the master's joy.

- Faithfulness in the small things leads to greater opportunities and responsibilities.
- It's not about how much we have but how we use what we have. We are responsible for putting our work into action, which may include taking risks, but we are rewarded for our efforts.

How do you feel about the idea of being accountable to God for how you use your talents?



Life Application

- **Accountability and Service:** Regularly evaluate how you use your talents, aligning your actions with God's purposes. Use your gifts to help others mature in Christ.
- **Encourage and Support Others:** Inspire and support others in recognizing and using their talents, fostering a culture of mutual encouragement.

Matthew 25:24-25

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

4. Fear and inaction:

The third servant's fear leads to inaction, demonstrating the negative consequences of fear.

- The third servant's fear and attitude led to inaction, which displeased the master.
- The servant's fear leads him to bury it, resulting in severe judgment. This shows that fear and attitude can prevent us from taking necessary actions and fulfilling our potential.
- Fear is an emotion that can lead to paralysis and poor decision-making.

What is your biggest obstacle in using your talents for God's Kingdom?



How can we overcome these obstacles?

Prayer and trusting God

Praying
Resetting our priorities

LIFE APPLICATION

- **God's Assurance:** God's assurance empowers us to overcome fear and inaction, trusting His constant presence and guidance in every step we take.
- **Seek Growth and Learning:** Continuously develop your talents through education and new experiences. Stay open to learning and adapting.

Matthew 25:26-30

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

28 “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

5. Judgment and Consequence:

The master's judgment on the third servant shows the serious consequences of failing to use God-given resources.

- The parable emphasizes that there will be a time of reckoning when the master returns. The unfaithful servant faces harsh judgment and loss. God will hold us accountable for how we have used what was entrusted to us.

- This demonstrates that actions have consequences, both in this life and in the spiritual realm.
- The master's final judgment on the servants' actions reflects the biblical principle of divine justice. It reminds us that God's judgment is both just and final.
- No one knows the day nor the hour of his return, but he will return.

How often do you feel you are using your God-given gifts to their fullest potential?



Life Application

- **Fulfill the Great Commission:** Go out into the world making disciples in Jesus' name. Build relationships and share the Good News, mentoring others to grow in their faith and multiply disciples for God's Kingdom.
- **Prepare for God's Return:** Live with the awareness that you will account to God for your talents, motivating you to live purposefully and diligently.

Conclusion

The Good News is that we do not do these things alone. Christ dwells in us, and God helps us carry out His will. God has given us unique talents and expects us to use them faithfully. Faithfulness in small things leads to greater responsibility and reward. Let's commit to using our talents to advance God's Kingdom and fulfill the Great Commission.

GNG Talent and Resource Questionnaire



Additional Study

Romans 12:6-8

1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Colossians 3:23-24

Luke 16:10

Ephesians 2:10

Proverbs 3:5-6

James 2:17