



## **“MAKING WISE INVESTMENTS”**

Series: “GUT CHECK PARABLES”, Part 2 of 3

Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

**Big Idea: The best investments are made with eternity in view.**

GUT CHECK: “An evaluation or test of a person’s resolve, commitment, or priorities, typically with respect to a particular course of action.” The Oxford Dictionary

**Five things that make this a “gut check” parable for me:**

### **I. THE OWNER (GOD) DARES TO ENTRUST HIS PROPERTY FOR US TO MANAGE.**

Matthew 25:14-15, “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.”

### **II. THE OWNER DISTRIBUTES THE TALENTS UNEQUALLY.**

Matthew 25:15, “To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.”

2 Corinthians 10:12b, “When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.”

Luke 12:48b, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

### **III. WE ARE INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE’RE GIVEN.**

Matthew 25:19-21, “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five.

'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "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!'"

Proverbs 16:2, "All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD."

Matthew 25:22-23, "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "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!'"

#### **IV. THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT IS TREATED HARSHLY.**

Matthew 25:24-27, Then the man who had received the one talent 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. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "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? 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.'

#### **V. GOD APPLAUDS A FAITHFUL SERVANT AND GIVES HIM OR HER MORE!**

Matthew 25:28, "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents."

Matthew 25:29, "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

Leviticus 19:15, "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly."

**The best investments are made with eternity in view.**

Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."