



# Sermon Notes

**Sermon** The Parable of the Talents

**Scripture** Matthew 25:14-30 NRSVue

**Preaching** Pastor John Tittle

**Date** August 24, 2025

## Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the "talents" (gifts, abilities, resources, opportunities) that God has entrusted to your care? How do you view these as sacred trusts rather than personal possessions?
2. The church today needs "a theology of risk" where we are willing to step out in faith rather than playing it safe. What are some faithful risks for us to take as a church and as Christians?
3. The third slave was paralyzed by fear, saying "I was afraid." How does fear prevent us from using our gifts effectively?
4. The third slave had a distorted view of the master as harsh and demanding. How does our perception of God's character affect how we live and serve?
5. The master commended the faithful servants for being "trustworthy in a few things" before giving them greater responsibilities. How can we demonstrate faithfulness in the seemingly small areas of our lives? Why do these matter to God?
6. The Scriptures teach "we're blessed to be a blessing." How can we use our specific talents and resources to serve others and advance God's kingdom?
7. Each slave received different amounts according to their ability. How do we avoid the trap of comparing our gifts to others or feeling bitter about what we lack? How can we celebrate the diversity of gifts in our faith community?
8. What talents or opportunities might you have "buried" out of fear, insecurity, or past failure? How can the promise of God's unconditional love give you courage to unearth and use these gifts?
9. God would prefer us to fail while attempting something great rather than do nothing at all. How can we develop a healthier relationship with failure and risk-taking in our spiritual lives?
10. This parable takes place during the master's absence, representing our time between Christ's first and second coming. How should this "in-between time" shape how we live, serve, and use our gifts while we await Christ's return?