

**Faithful With God's Stuff**  
**Pastor Cameron Brice & Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, December 11th 2022**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord's money. After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his Lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” - **Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV**

**A. The kingdom of heaven is like.**

1. Our vision at CL is to become a church that looks like heaven, so scriptural descriptions of heaven's kingdom stand out to us as a community.
2. Today I want us to see that faithfulness is the economy of His kingdom and that our faithfulness to steward His possessions will determine the state of our eternity. God invites us into faithfulness by...

**B. God makes us responsible for His stuff.**

1. What is His stuff?

a) His Kingdom is His stuff and many things are encompassed by His kingdom.

(1) We are His. Our family is His. Our friend group is His. Our work places are His. Our city is His. The poor are His. The lost in our city are His. The sick in Cape Fear hospital are His. "The least of these" are His.

### C. God entrusts us with His stuff according to our ability.

1. We are all equal in value but not in ability.

a) This isn't demeaning, it is a relief. Why? Because the weight of caring for God's things is major! We aren't talking about watching someone's pet hamster for the weekend. We aren't talking about being given responsibility by the God of the universe!

2. The most important thing isn't what has been given to us, but WHO gave it to us. Everything we have from God is valuable therefore the greater the responsibility, the greater the expectation we have from God to be faithful with what He gave us.

### D. No matter what we have been given, we are expected to faithfully invest His stuff.

1. Investment comes with inherent risk. Investing the things that have been given to us is the faithfulness He is looking for in all of us.

a) We aren't all expected to make the same amount, but we are expected to do something with what we have received.

b) What are we doing with God's stuff?

c) What is keeping us from being faithful with His stuff?

### E. Fear and misconceptions about God produce excuses.

1. "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'" - Matthew 25:24-25 NKJV

a) When the master responded back to this servant He clarified that He "perceived" Him to be that way, but that wasn't His actual character.

b) God's character isn't simply looking for us to be faithful so He can have more, He looks for us to be faithful so He can give US more. When the master returned He didn't take back what He gave to the servants, He gave back to the faithful ones more than what they had!

c) If we walk in fear we will come up with excuses to not do anything with what God has given us but...

**F. Faithfulness with God's stuff now will cause us to grow in capacity and ability that will reach into eternity.**

1. "And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and **they shall reign on the earth.**" - **Revelation 5:8-10 ESV**

a) I want to be a trustworthy servant that receives great responsibility in the age to come.

**G. Questions to ask ourselves...**

1. Am I afraid of God?

2. Am I being faithful with His stuff?

3. What can I do to grow in faithfulness?