



## Ownership vs. Stewardship

February 14, 2016

### Matthew 25:14-30

**THE BIG THOUGHT:** There are three things you can do with your life:

- You can **WASTE** it.
- You can **SPEND** it.
- You can **INVEST** it.

Jesus told a story called the parable of the talents. In it he gives seven principles for investing your life:

1. **OWNERSHIP**: Everything I have belongs to God.

**(Matthew 25:14)** "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them." Whose property was it — the servant's or the master's? It was the master's. God has entrusted some things to you. God owns everything.

2. **ALLOCATION**: God has given me some talents.

**(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."

**(Romans 12:6)** "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

**3. ACCOUNTABILITY:** God expects me to use MY GIFTS.

**(Matthew 25:19)** "After a long time the master of the servants came back and settled accounts with them."

**4. STEWARDSHIP:** It's wrong to bury what God gave me.

**(Matthew 25:18)** "But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."

**(Matthew 25:26)** "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant.'"

**5. MOTIVATION:** Fear keeps me from developing my talent.

**(Matthew 25:25)** "I was afraid and went out and hid your talent."

**(Matthew 25:24)** "Then the man who had received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered.'"

**6. APPLICATION:** If I don't use it, I lose it.

***This principle is true of anything in your life — time, money, effort, energy, talent or abilities. If you don't use it, you lose it.***

**(Matthew 25:28)** "The master says, 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.'"

**7. COMPENSATION:** If I use my talents, I'm going to be rewarded.

**(Matthew 25:21)** "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!'"