



# JESUS: KING AND JUDGE



## Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matt. 25:14-30

### *The Master and His Money*

Welcome to the Fall 2024 GLC Season!

We hope the Lord is blessing, challenging, and encouraging you through this sermon series thus far.

This season, we will be in Matthew chapters 22-25, which covers Jesus's interactions with his disciples and the religious leaders of the day, in the last week before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and then end with prayer.

### exploring

**We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.**

### digging

**We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.**

### growing

**We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.**

### going

**We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.**



## exploring

Matthew 25:14-30 ESV

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

1. Read Matt 25:14-30 together.

- Three different words are repeated numerous times. What questions or insights arise from these repetitions?
- What two different “places” or “destinations” did the servants enter into as a result of their response to the master’s instructions?

## digging

2. What context from the preceding parable is needed to know what the parable is about?

- How do we know who the master is?
- How do we know what the talents in the parable symbolize for us?

3. Did it surprise you to know the approximate value of a talent?

- How does it enhance our understanding of the passage?
- What indication of the even greater wealth of the master do we get?

4. When would the master be coming back?

## growing

5. Most of us would agree that we long to hear the words expressed to the first 2 slaves.

- Is this truly the great longing of your heart?
- What causes us to long for the master's welcome – "Well done good and faithful servant"? (i.e. why do you long for it?)

## going

6. What do we learn about the true character of the master from his response to these first 2 slaves?

- What do we learn about God's kingdom through the reward given to them?

7. Does the description of the master given by the last slave fit what we know to be true of him in the first 2 instances?

- Do you think he actually "knew" the master and what he was like? Explain....

8. If we don't know when the Lord is returning, how can we be sure to be found faithfully using the gifts and talents He has given to us for the benefit of His kingdom when He does return?

9. What is the value of the "talents" Jesus has entrusted to us to use and multiply for His glory?

- Pastor Paul discussed 4 different "talents" we have been given: God's word; Natural and Spiritual gifts; Finances; Grace.
  - Choose 1 that you will commit to using more faithfully and responsibly. When will you start? (Choose more if you need to)

## going

10. Where would we be if God waited for us to be worthy of His love, of His grace? Romans 5:8 tells us that "while we were still sinner, Christ died for us".

- Will we shower others with love and grace, even when they don't deserve it, and thus be a winsome illustration of Christ's unmerited gift of salvation for those who need Him?