

Andy Deane • January 25-26, 2020

“Opportunities for Faithfulness”

Matthew 25:14-30

While teaching people about God's kingdom Jesus shared a parable regarding a master who provided opportunities for his servants to be effective. This story reminds us that we serve a generous God who equips us with resources and abilities that we in turn use for His kingdom. His grace will empower us for the mission, but He asks us to be faithful in response to His blessings. As we go through this passage, we will discover 6 characteristics about faithfulness that we'll need to remember as we serve Him this week.

### #1 Faithfulness always starts with **GOD** (v.14-15)

**1 Peter 4:11**, *“If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ...”*

- Don't get hung up comparing yourself to other people.
- It's not how much you're given, it's what you do with what you're given.

### #2 Faithfulness is **HARD WORK** (v.16-18)

**Matthew 5:14-15**, *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”*

**Romans 12:6-8**, *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”*

### #3 Faithfulness is **REWARDED** (v.19-23)

- “Those who desire to be used for God's glory are given the means. The more they do, the more they are enabled to do.” (MacDonald)

### #4 Faithfulness doesn't make **EXCUSES** (v.24-25)

### #5 Faithfulness can take different **FORMS** (v.26-27)

- “timid souls, unfitted for bold and independent service on behalf of the kingdom, may link their incapacity to the capacity of others who will make their gifts and possessions of use to the Master and His Church” (Pierson)

### #6 Faithfulness avoids a lot of **PAIN** (v.28-30)

- Use it or lose it. Good intentions are not enough.
- What opportunity for faithfulness do you have? Pray!

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**2 Timothy 2:13**, *“if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”*