



11 SEP 2022 | PASTOR LIONEL GOH
LET'S BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS | MATTHEW 25:14-30

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

- Reflect on what it means to be a faithful and diligent steward
- Commit to being generous in using our wealth and gifts to help the needy and the lost

SERMON SUMMARY

Many believers fall prey to the idea that they are the owners of their talents, gifts and possessions and can use it as they wish. The Bible teaches us that all we possess belongs to God and for us to steward them wisely for the Kingdom.

1. God owns everything we possess. All we have is simply on loan from God for a period of time.
2. God desires for us to be His faithful stewards and to use the resources we have to impact lives and expand His kingdom.
3. We will be judged and give an account on our stewardship one day.
4. God rewards the faithful stewards.

God has blessed us with many things in life. May we be faithful stewards for His glory!

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Lionel spoke on the 3 End Times Parables, focusing on the Parables of the Talents

The 3 End Times Parables in Matthew 25		
	<i>Parable</i>	<i>Exhortation</i>
1	The 10 Virgins	Watch & Wait – Be Hopeful!
2	The Talents	Watch & Work – Be Faithful!
3	Goats & Sheep Judgement	Watch & Care – Be Loving!

In the Parable of the Talents, we learn 4 truths.

1. **God owns everything we possess** ([v 14](#), [Psalm 24:1-2](#))

God is the creator and owns all we are and have. God has given us abilities and opportunities. All we have is “on loan” from God. We come into this world with nothing and leave with nothing. Let us live life with surrendered and open palms towards God.



2. God wants us to be faithful stewards ([v 15-18](#))

A steward is one that serves and takes care of the possession the Master gives. The Master has the prerogative to give us according to what He decides and what He knows about our responsibilities. It is not for us to question God on the reasons we are assigned different gifts to varying capacity. It is our responsibility, however, to use what God has given to us.

A talent is a unit of measurement. Biblical scholars estimate that a talent is about 20 years of wages. A talent would be worth \$800,000 in today's time.

a. *Why were 2 stewards faithful and another was unfaithful?*

All the stewards knew what was expected on how to manage the talents. It was to use the money to increase the wealth of the master, instead of leisure. In verse 16, the first and second steward immediately put the talents he received to good use. He was also happy to see the Master upon His return. He did not claim credit for His action but was excited to earn more for his Master. He moved in faith and took risks.

Both of these stewards displayed the following:

- Had a good perception of their Master
- Treasured their roles as stewards
- Worked hard and took risk with their resources

The unfaithful steward was not ready to take up his role as a steward. He hid it and did not think of it. He blamed his poor performance on the Master.

Unfaithful stewards

- Had a poor perception of the Master
- Did not take his stewardship role seriously
- Lazy and afraid to take risks for the Master

Some of us struggle to give because of our disappointments with or feeling offended by God. God desires for us to be set free. The servant who acted in fear did not act in faith.

b. *How can we be faithful today? ([1 Peter 4:10-11](#), [Matthew 10:42](#), [Luke 12:33](#))*

Let's use what we have well with the power of the Holy Spirit. It is possible that the person with one talent felt that he would not be able to contribute as much as the stewards with both talents, and hence decided to bury it. Ps Lionel shared about how some of us may feel redundant and hence may not use our gifts.

3. God will judge us for our stewardship (v 19, Hebrews 9:27, 1 Cor 3:11-15)

Pastor Lionel encouraged us to not compare ourselves with others. It is more important to be diligent and faithful with what we have. A day will come when we will be tested if our work lasts and we will receive an eternal reward if the work lasts. Pastor Lionel gently exhorted us that being diligent now prevents us from experiencing regret and remorse over what could have been done.

4. God rewards those who are faithful (v 20-21)

As we give, we will experience the following:

- a. Abundance in the present life (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- b. Eternal treasures in the next life (Matthew 6:19-20, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

God rewards His faithful stewards.

- Faithful servants will receive:
 - Commendation
 - Promotion
 - Celebration with the Master
- Unfaithful servants will receive:
 - Condemnation
 - Demotion
 - Alienation from the Master

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What does it mean to be a steward? What are some hindrances, ungodly beliefs or attitudes we have that may hinder the stewardship of the resources God has given to us?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question. Members can share about what they understand about stewardship and the challenges they face in stewarding what they have.

Resource: Steward the Gifts God has Assigned to You by Jon Bloom, Desiring God

Resource: "What Are the 'High Places' in the Old Testament, and How Does That Apply to Us Today?" by Randy Alcorn


Transition

After we have examined some areas that we struggle with, let us look at how we can grow in being faithful.

2. **Share your own experience where you gave to the needy and to the Kingdom. How was the experience for you as you used what you had?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to relate and reflect on their experience of stewarding what they had for others. Leaders can pick out the moments where



they experienced joy and had faith through the challenges. Members can also share about a time where they were blessed by a faithful steward of God.

Transition

As we have shared about our own experiences of giving and receiving, let us look at areas we can continue to do well or grow in.

- 3. Pastor Lionel provided some characteristics of a faithful steward. As a cell, take time to reflect on these characteristics. What are some areas you are doing well in and some areas you wish to improve in?**

Leader's Notes

This is a relate and response question. Leaders may wish to deepen the discussion by asking members about:

- what does having a right perception of our Master look like?
- what does it mean to treasure our roles as stewards? (what are the attitudes we take on?)
- what does it mean to balance working hard and not making work our idol?
- what does it mean to take risks for our Master?
- Etc.

Members can share about areas they are doing well in and areas to grow together as a cell.

Closing

As a church, let us remember what it means to be a faithful steward and rely on Him with faith and have joy in our being and doing. Let us build eternal treasures that will not rust, be stolen or destroyed, and to bring pleasure to Him.

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to grow in being diligent and faithful stewards of what He has given us
- For RiverLifers to grow in generosity to love the needy and the lost in practical ways

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
- Pray that the community cases will be low.

3. World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.


4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Current Pulpit Series: The Blessings of Generosity. 11-18 September.** In this series of 2 sermons, we will explore God's perspective of ownership and stewardship, and God's promises of blessings when we are generous.
 - 11 Sep: Let's Be Faithful Stewards
 - 18 Sep: Let's Be Generous Givers
2. **Water Baptism Class.** 1 Oct. 9-3.30pm. Faith Chapel. Signup: rlc.sg/baptism-class.
3. **RiverLife Missions Upcoming Trips.** Signup: rlc.sg/signupformissions.
 - **Medical Mission Trip to Sarangani, South Philippines. 20-24 October. Cost: \$800.** We are looking for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare professionals to join us for this trip. Team members will help to dispense medication, take basic vital statistics, interact with families, pray for the sick and share the Gospel.
 - **Encounter Camp & Revival Rallies, Asansol, India. 30 Sep – 6 Oct. \$1200.** Serve local churches through studying God's Word and corporate worship.
4. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
5. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
6. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
7. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all



work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.

8. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. **Commitment:** Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@rcs.org.sg.
9. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
10. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
11. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
12. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
13. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

14. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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