

Your "Mist" Matters Pastor Brian MacSwan March 26 & 27, 2011

James 4:14 (English Standard Version)

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Life is a <u>temporary</u> opportunity to impact eternity. (Hebrews 9:27)

Jesus intends for us to experience life to the <u>fullest</u>. (John 10:10)

Matthew 25:14-30: The Parable of the Talents (on back)

You are entrusted with much. (vs. 14-15)

The three servants fell into two categories: faithful and unfaithful.

The proportion of gifts is <u>different</u> but the faithful are rewarded the same. (vss. 16-23)

Faithfulness requires work and risk. (vs. 16-17)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot

Faithful servants become faithful rulers. (vss. 21, 23)

Being faithful in the <u>small</u> things today leads to a huge reward in the future.

Fear paralyzes towards unfaithfulness. (vs. 25)

## **Key Life Principles**

<u>Use</u> it or <u>lose</u> it.

A life not lived fully for Christ is not fully lived.

You have one life. Make it count. (Colossians. 3:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

## Matthew 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)

<sup>14</sup> "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> 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.'

<sup>21</sup> 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.'

<sup>22</sup> 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.'

<sup>23</sup> 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.'

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

<sup>26</sup> 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? <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.
<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Small Group Questions	<ol> <li>Is there someone you admire for the way they have made their life count? Who is it, and why?</li> </ol>
	2) What do you think are some of the most important things that God has entrusted to you?
	3) Looking at the parable of the talents above, do you see actions or attitudes that separate the faithful from the unfaithful servants?
	4) Why do you think that so many of us are prone to living safe, mediocre lives instead of choosing to risk and live radically for Jesus?
	5) If Jesus where to come back today how would you feel about the life that you've lived? Do you sense God calling you to adjust your life to radically follow him?
	6) How can we pray for you tonight?