



HOME
LOVING THE CITY
LONG TERM

Home Campaign Core Group Study

Week 4: Risk

READ: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON SUMMARY: In this parable, Jesus tells his disciples about a rich master who entrusts three of his servants to manage his wealth while he is away on a journey. The master entrusts five talents to one servant, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third servant. The first two servants invest their talents and make a return for their master, while the third servant plays it safe and buries his talent out of fear. The master rewards the first two servants for being good stewards, but he condemns the third “wicked and slothful servant” for failing to take any risks at all.

This parable highlights our calling as disciples to be risk-takers. God calls each of us to risk investing our time, talent, and treasure for his Kingdom. But we often avoid risks. Sometimes this is because we don't believe in God's goodness, while other times it is because we don't believe God is worth it. We fear that we may lose if we take real risks for the Kingdom. We want an easy Christianity that doesn't ask too much of us. Jesus, however, challenges and empowers us to take risk. He risked everything and suffered ultimate loss for us. Jesus demonstrates God's goodness on the Cross, commissions us to work for God's purposes, and promises that our Kingdom investments will pay off when he comes to renew all of Creation. In the words of Lilius Trotter “Holiness, not safety, is the end of our calling.”

1. What are your initial reactions to this parable? In what ways do you feel encouraged, challenged, or confused by this parable and God's call for us to take risk for the Kingdom?
2. How do you avoid taking real risks for the Kingdom? How are your anxieties, fears of failure, distorted images of God, unnecessary busyness, doubts, or desires for an easy faith preventing you from embracing God's call to use your time, talent, and treasure for his purposes?
3. Reflect on Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming. How does Jesus challenge us as disciples to give up our personal safety?

4. What are some specific areas where you feel God may be calling you to take risks? What are some practices and/or tangible next steps you can take to lean into that call?

PRAY: Pray that God would reveal the ways that we avoid his risky call to invest in the Kingdom. Pray that God would grant us the courage and trust to leave whatever bastions of safety we are clinging to and follow Jesus sacrificial example.

DO: Name the things holding you back from investing your time, talent, and treasure for God's purposes. Commit to concrete actions to lay these aside and pursue God's call more fully. Share these with your family, friends, and/or core group so that they can encourage and support you in the weeks and months ahead.