

“Making The Most of the Holidays”

11/23/08

All verses from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted



In Matthew 25:14-30 a man was going on an extended **trip**. He called in **three** of his servants and gave them each money to **invest** for him while he was gone. He gave **five** bags of **gold** to one, **two** bags of gold to another, and **one** bag of gold to the last—**dividing** it in **proportion** to their **abilities**—what he felt they could handle. And then, he left on his trip.

The **one** to whom he gave **five** bags, began **immediately** invest the money and soon **doubled** it. The **second** servant also went **right to work** and soon **doubled** the money. But the servant who received the **one** bag of gold, dug a **hole** in the ground and **hid** the money to keep it **safe**.

Sometime **later** their master returned from his trip and **called** them in to give an **account** of how they had used his money. The **servant** to whom he had entrusted the **five** bags of gold said ‘Sir, you gave me **five** bags of gold to invest, and I have **doubled** the amount.’”

The master was full of **praise**, “Well done! Good job. You have **proven** yourself faithful in handling a **small** amount. I’m going to increase your responsibilities. Come, let’s **celebrate** together!”

Next came the servant who had received the **two** bags of gold, with the report, “**Sir**, you gave me **two** bags of gold to invest, and I have **doubled** the amount.” Again the master was full of praise.

“You have **proven** yourself faithful in handling a small amount. I know I can **trust** you with even greater responsibilities. **Come**, let’s **celebrate** together!”

Then the servant came in that had been given only **one** bag of gold. He reported, “**Sir**, I know you are a **hard** man, harvesting crops you didn’t **plant** and gathering crops you didn’t **cultivate**. I was afraid, so I **hid** your money in the ground. Here it is.”

The master, obviously **irate**, responded, “You **wicked, lazy** servant! You think I’m a **hard** man, do you, **harvesting** crops I didn’t plant and **gathering** crops I didn’t cultivate? Well, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest.”

You've got to realize that if this were to take place today, that money would likely be worth less, due to inflation.

"Take the money from this servant and give it to the one with the ten bags of gold and throw this servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

1ST – BY GIVING TO OTHERS

Matthew 20:28 **"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

2nd – BY ENJOYING RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 1:22 **"See to it that you fully love each other intensely with all your hearts."**

3rd – BY MAINTAINING SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Hebrews 12:2 (Msg) **"Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race were in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God."**