**Title:** Playing It Safe (Matt. 25:14-30) – Parable of the Talents

***Matt. 25:1, 14*** – Jesus compares the first two parables to the Kingdom of Heaven.

***Matt. 25:31*** – The third parable occurs when the Son of Man comes.

***Matt. 24:2*** – Jesus told the disciples the Temple was going to be destroyed.

***Gen. 5:32*** – Noah took 500 years before he decided to bring children into the world.

***Jer. 32*** – At God’s command, Jeremiah invested in Palestinian land even though he was getting ready to go into captivity.

1. All the resources belong to the Master. (Matt. 25:14-15)
2. The Master trusts His servants with His resources. *“entrusted his possessions to them”*

***Acts 20:24; Gal. 2:7*** – Paul was entrusted with the Gospel.

***Rom. 3:2*** – The Jews were entrusted with God’s Word.

***I Pet. 5:2*** – Pastors are entrusted with their church.

***1 Pet. 5:3-4*** – Trust can be abused, such as when a pastor rules his church instead of leading it.

1. The Master distributes His resources as He desires. *“five,” “two,” “one”*

***Matt. 20:1-16*** – The Master can do with His resources whatever He wants.

***Luke 12:48*** – Greater resources creates greater expectation.

1. The Master knows how much of His resources each can handle. *“according to his own ability”*

***1 Cor. 10:13*** – God has promised He won’t give us more temptation than we can bear with His help.

***Luke 16:10-12*** – God won’t entrust you with more if you don’t use well what you’ve already been given.

1. We get to decide how we will use His resources. (Matt. 25:16-18)

***Luke 19:13*** – In this version of the story, the Master tells the servants what He expects them to do with the resources.

1. The Master’s servants can invest His resources. *“traded with them” (v. 16)*

***Matt. 6:21*** – Your investments become your passion.

**ACTION STEP**: Put a picture of your kids or family on the screen, hold a picture up for people to see, or call your children to come stand by you.

***Matthew 25:16*** – The servants invested immediately.

1. The Master’s servants can protect His resources. *“hid his master’s money” (v. 18)*

***Matt. 25:25*** – The servant hid the money because he was afraid.

***Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:17; Gal. 2:7; 1 Thes. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:11; Tit. 1:3*** – Paul was awed that God had entrusted him with the ministry of the Gospel.

***Rom. 1:16*** – Paul refused to hide the Gospel.

***Rev. 7:3-4*** – 144,000 Jews will be God’s missionaries during the Tribulation. God will protect them from harm.

1. We will have to answer to the Master for how we used His resources. (Matt. 25:19-20, 22, 24)
2. This accounting will happen in the future. *“after a long time” (v. 19)*

***Luke 19:11*** – Jesus told His disciples the Kingdom was in the future.

***Isaiah 39:5-8*** – Hezekiah took God’s warning flippantly because the danger was in the future.

1. This accounting will happen in front of the Master. *“the master…settled accounts” (v. 19)*

***John 5:22*** – Jesus is the Judge.

***1 Cor. 6:3*** – Angels won’t judge us. We will judge them.

***Rev. 12:10*** – Satan accuses us, but he can’t judge us.

***Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10*** – We will stand before Jesus to be judged.

***Rom. 12:1*** – Jesus gave everything for us; He expects us to return the same.

1. The Master will reward us in proportion to how we used His resources. (Matt. 25:21, 23, 26-30)
2. Positive consequence (vvs. 21, 23)
3. Assessment of servant’s person (nature and actions) *“Well done, good and faithful slave”*

***Rev. 2:9-10*** – Jesus promised the crown of life to faithful servants.

1. Advancement of servant’s position *“put you in charge of many things”*

***1 Cor. 4:2*** – Faithfulness in small details leads to greater opportunities.

1. Addition of servant’s perks *“enter into the joy of your master”*

***1 Cor. 12:14-17*** – Instead of wishing you had what God gave someone else, be thankful for and use what He gave you.

1. Negative consequence (vvs. 26-30)
2. Assessment of servant’s person (nature and actions) *“wicked, lazy slave,” “worthless”*

***Matt. 7:21-23*** – Jesus rejects those who do not know Him.

1. Abandonment of servant’s position *“take away…throw out”*

***Luke 19*** – In the other version of this parable, the servants complain that the Master gives the one talent to the servant who already has ten.

1. Abdication of servant’s plans *“outer darkness…weeping and gnashing of teeth”*

***Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51*** – Jesus uses the terms “weeping and gnashing of teeth” to describe Hell.

1. How we view the Master will determine what we do with His resources. (Matt. 25:24-25)
2. Do you see Him as harsh? *“reaping where you did not sow” (v. 24)*

***2 Cor. 4:18*** – Paul focused on the great reward instead of the hard requirements.

***2 Cor. 12:9*** – Jesus promises His grace to deal with the problems.

***Matt. 11:28-30*** – Jesus describes our burdens as light when we allow Him to carry the load.

1. Do you see Him as good? *“give it to the one who has the ten talents” (v. 28)*

***2 Cor. 4:17*** – The requirements are high; the rewards are higher.

***Rev. 19:8*** – Saints will one day be clothed in their good works.