**Sunday 19th November 2023: Matthew 25: 14-30**

***14****“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.****15****To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A+14-30&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24024a)*] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.****16****The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.****17****So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.****18****But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

***19****“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.****20****The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’*

***21****“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’*

***22****“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’*

***23****“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’*

***24****“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.****25****So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’*

***26****“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?****27****Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.*

***28****“‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.****29****For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.****30****And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness*, *where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

**Notes**Do you sometimes feel sympathy for the wicked servant? He didn’t entrust the money to a risky investment. What would have happened if he had put the money to work and it had fallen in value?

Verse 24 says “*I knew that you are a hard man”.* It feels like the servant didn’t know his master very well at all. His unwanted and unrewarded caution arises because he has a false view of the master.

Our money is actually God’s money. All things are made by Him and flow from Him, that includes our possessions, money, ability to earn, and health. We are not all given the same, but God looks to see what we do with what He has entrusted to us.

But what’s our view of God? Do we understand His heart of generosity, and forgiveness? We might never be able to say: “I gave money away, and look, now I have 5 more bags”. But can we say: “I have invested into your Kingdom. I have allowed my Parish to continue in its ministry. I’ve given to other causes so that the hungry and homeless can be cared for.” Let’s respond generously to God and receive that invitation to share our Lord’s happiness as He reviews the value choices we make.

**End**