

**LIVE THE STORY**

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an  
aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

**Questions**

1. If you are a follower of Christ, then every aspect of your life is a gift given to you for the purpose of investment. Is that your perspective on your time, your opportunities, responsibilities and in your relationships?
2. What about that person that gets under your skin? How is God using that relationship to increase His assets? In you and in them.
3. This parable may have caused you to become alert to a pebble in your shoe or a squeaky board that seems to keep reminding you, sort of like a voice telling you “Oh yeah, I need to increase the assets of the kingdom by caring for that one who I know was bruised and robbed (*Think Good Samaritan*) in an event that occurred to them (either by your own doing or another’s) and they are still in need of care.” How can you be used to increase His assets in that relationship?
4. Concerning His assets, the master directed the servant to “put it to work” (Matt 25:16). Thinking more in terms of assignments, opportunities, and responsibilities of being His servant; How can you consider increasing his asset of mercy by giving mercy to someone who is in need of mercy? (Or another one of His assets you are wanting to reveal?)
5. Why do you think that Jesus called attention to the “at once” position of the 1<sup>st</sup> servant’s heart in this parable. (Matt 25:16)
6. Is there a talent that he has given you to manage, oversee and invest in His kingdom that you have buried? (Matt 25:18)

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

**Introduction**

In His eschatological (end times) discourse in Matt 24 – 25 Jesus spends 1/3 of His time answering what it will be like and then spends 2/3’s of His time instructing on “How to Wait”.

With his greatest volume of words in this discourse being on “the how” should we not give attention to the volume of words he lays out on the “how” and its implications for us?

*Lets look into “How” we wait when the coming of Christ is unknown  
(Matt 24:36 and Matt 25:13*

*Background of Matthew 24*

**I. The normality of the times (Matt 24:36-41)**

As in the days of Noah (24:37; 25:13)

- Marriage given in marriage.
- Doing commerce
- They did not have a clue

## II. The talent in this parable

A talent (rendered as a bag of gold – NIV) is defined as a unit of measurement, a weight, for something of value (such as gold, silver).

Greek – talanton;  
Hebrew is kikkār.

Talent *kikkar* first used in the construction of the tabernacle in the wilderness. The people gave (29 talents of gold; 100 talents of silver (Ex. 38:24)

In Rome – countries would pay tribute in talents or Gk. *Talanton*

## III. How do we wait? – Increase His assets

- His desire is for increase, for gain. (Matt 25:16-17)

*Our assignment is to put His wealth to work (Matt 25:14,16)*

*God does not need more stuff*

## IV. How do we wait? – Know what His assets look like

- Becoming skilled in His ways, what His ways look like.

*This was necessary for them to imagine His kingdom.*

- Savoring His words. The constitution of His kingdom (Matt 4, 5 and 6)

## V. How do we wait? With a sense of urgency & preparedness (25:16)

- At once. Immediacy. (Matt 25:16)

*Waiting does not mean an absence of activity*

- The 10 virgins (Matt 25:1-13)

*5 were prepared, though the bridegrooms coming was delayed and longer than they anticipated.*

## VI. How do we wait? – His Many assets to invest

- A story of mercy. (Matthew 18:23-35)

*Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?*

- He has many assets. Find places to invest mercy

## VII. How do we wait? The upside down nature of His wealth

- Same pay, unequal hours
- Distributing assets unequally in this passage does not seem fair at first glance

## Conclusion

*Is there a talent, an asset of His wealth that he has given you to manage, oversee and invest in His kingdom that you have buried? (Matt 25:18)*