



**Part 4:
Pastor Dave Patterson
Small Group Sermon Notes**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

The Christian life is all about a stewardship: your time, your body, your opportunities, your treasure, your relationship, your family, your church...Faithful servants don't make excuses; they just get it done.

THE STEWARD: *Someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the owner's best interest*

THE STEWARD'S GOAL: *To be found faithful by the owner/ master and accomplish the goals and task for which the resources were entrusted*

[1 Corinthians 4.2]

First and foremost, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

For a Christian to deny his stewardship is as serious a matter as denying the divinity of Christ.--Charles Finney

[Matthew 25.14-30, NLT]

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ “The servant who had received the two bags of

*silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' 'The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' 'Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' 'But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' 'Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and **they will have an abundance**. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

His trust: God's grace investing in us all we need to make a difference with our lives

His expectations: He expects a return on his investments

His ownership: It all belongs to him in the first place

[Deuteronomy 10.14]

*Look, the highest heavens and the earth and **everything in it all belong to the LORD your God.***

[1 Chronicles 29.11-12]

*Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. **Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours!** Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything.*

[Job 41.11]

"Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me."

[Psalm 24.1-2]

*The earth belongs to God. **Everything in all the world is His.** He is the one who pushed the oceans back to let dry land appear.*

[Haggai 2.8]

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

[2 Corinthians 6.19-20]

*Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? **You do not belong to yourself,** for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*

His absence: The extended time between the entrustment and giving account.

[Hebrews 4.13]

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom **we must give an account.***

[Luke 16.10-15, NIV]

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

His Reward: Multiplying our resources and entrusting us with the "true riches" = People

[Matthew 25.23b, AMP]

“... You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy, the delight and the blessedness which your master enjoys.”

None of it's mine; I've been entrusted; I will give an account. If you are faithful with the little things, you will be entrusted with bigger things.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Looking at the parable: *Who is Jesus? Who am I? Who are the other characters? What is the application?***
- 2. What opportunities has God entrusted you with to multiply? How does the principle of "entrustment" motivate us?**
- 3. How does capacity proportionally relate to responsibility and accountability levels? How are you doing with the "little things?"**
- 4. What often happens to us in the "absence of the Master?" (Consider your body, relationships, finances, family, etc.) In other words, how does absence not negate reality?**
- 5. How can we eliminate the "if-only-s" that limit our lives and fulfillment of purpose?**
- 6. What are things, and who are people, that remind you to depend upon God?**