



September 21, 2026

An Invitation to Enter into the Joy of your Master

As we have entered into our annual stewardship campaign, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect upon the theme of stewardship. Perhaps the most well-known biblical passage regarding stewardship can be found in the Parable of the Talents.

Matthew 25: 14-25

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, saying, 'Master you handed over to me five talents, see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter in the joy of your master.

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents, see I have made

two more talents.: His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

As you may know, a talent in biblical times, was a unit of weight used to measure precious metals. One silver talent weighed about 50-75 pounds. A single talent represented about 16-20 years of manual labor. Therefore, even the slave who was only entrusted with one talent, was given a massive fortune to oversee. I believe this represents God's abundant generosity to His people.

So, what should we make of this story? Today, we associate talents with God-given resources such as spiritual gifts and abilities. As believers, we are expected to be good stewards of the riches and talents bestowed upon us by God rather than passively waiting for Christ's return and for the Kingdom of God to become fully realized. Our talents and resources are to be shared with others to the glory of God, not to be stored, hoarded, and buried in a hole.

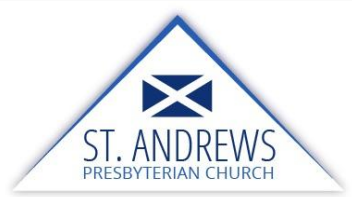
We do our part to build the Kingdom of God here on earth, whether it is serving on Session, recruiting ushers and greeters for church services, serving or leading on ministry teams of the church, maintaining the church grounds and property, serving or preparing food, volunteering in the community, teaching, or helping to make our neighbors' homes warmer, safer, and drier. In the midst of meeting deadlines and commitments, sometimes the work of the church can seem like hard work. At times we may lose sight of God's invitation to enter into the joy of "our" Master.

Christ invites us to enter into and share in the joy of experiencing communion with God and to participate in His divine joy. In ancient Greek, joy (Chara) can refer to a grand banquet or celebration held by a lord to honor someone. To enter into the joy of our master means to be invited to and experience the master's banquet.

As we reflect on the stewardship needs of the church, let us do so knowing that this is an opportunity to enter into the joy of our master, to experience meaningful and spirit-filled lives. We have been entrusted with talents and treasures given to us by God and have an opportunity to be good stewards of that which has been given to us by God. Let's enter into the joy of our Creator. Amen!

~Written by Tom Webster

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