

## Praying Matthew 25

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(This week's readings from Sunday to Saturday: Matthew 22–28)

### Matthew 25:14–30 (ESV)

**Matt. 25:14** “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ **21** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ **23** His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ **26** But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30** And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

### Adoration

Matthew 25 reminds us that God has entrusted us with all that is his. As his people, we are co-heirs with Christ Jesus in the kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup> Take a moment and thank God that he is the generous master of Matthew 25. Praise him for his grace and mercy towards us, as his servants.

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Titus 3:7.

Father, you are a generous God. As children benefit from their parents, surely we have benefited from your grace to us in many ways. You O Lord, are an Everlasting Father, the perfect parent that continually grants his children unmerited favor. Your divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through our knowledge of you, who called us to your own glory and excellence, by which you have granted to us your precious and very great promises, so that through them we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of our sinful desire.<sup>2</sup> We praise you, we honor you, we adore you. We know that, as your people, no good thing do you withhold from us. We are blessed because we trust you.<sup>3</sup>

## Confession

God has graciously given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, choosing us in him before the foundation of the world.<sup>4</sup> Yet, we all still doubt his goodness. Just as the servant who believed his master to be a “hard man” — Matthew 25, verse 24 — exploiting the labor of his workers, we too can grow weary in doing good.<sup>5</sup> Confess to God areas in your life where you have given up, areas where you have grown weary and tired. Confess to him, how your trust in his character has been blinded by your circumstances.

[Pray for 30 seconds.]

The reality is, we are all tempted to be like the servant with one talent. He played it safe. Let's confess to God our fears of making mistakes, our unwillingness to be bold with the rich investments that he's given to us. Pray that the loudest voice speaking to our heart is faith, not fear.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

God, you are our Creator. You created us to worship you, but instead we begin to worship the things you created. Forgive us, Father. We repent for allowing our hardships to deter us from doing good works. We admit that we begin to doubt the fruit of your labor with us. We begin to believe that your investment in us was worthless. Forgive us God for placing trust in ourselves and allowing the enemy to steal the joy we find in serving you.<sup>6</sup> We are your workmanship, created in your son Jesus to do good works, and you established this beforehand Lord, please give us the faith to walk in this.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. 2 Pet 1:3–4.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Psalm 84:11–12.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Eph 1:3–4.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Gal 6:9.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Matt 13:19, John 10:10.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Eph 2:10.

## Thanksgiving

God desires for us to enter into his joy as faithful servants (Matthew 25, verse 21). God also rewards us when we diligently seek him.<sup>8</sup> Thank him for the guarantee of entering into his rest, his kingdom, and his glory. Take the next few moments and thank God for the joy we experience from our relationship with the Creator of the Universe.

[Pray for 30 seconds.]

We have so much to be thankful for, God. We know the answer to all of your promises are simply yes and amen.<sup>9</sup> We rejoice in your steadfast love. We take delight in your presence. We are overjoyed with your provision. We long to dwell in your joy. Thank you for entrusting your joy to your servants. We honor you, and we love you. Teach us your ways and show us how to make you the center of our joy.

## Supplication

In fact, in Matthew 25:29, Jesus said, “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” God blesses us to be a blessing to others. Reflect on all that God has currently given to you. How is God leading you to be a blessing to others?

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

Now, ask God, how he might use you to bring him more glory. Ask him to reveal to you creative ways to be a blessing to your neighbors, your co-workers, your classmates, your friends, and your family. If you need more resources, simply ask!

[Pray for 25 seconds.]

## Benediction

O God, we ask all these things according to your will. You have blessed us, you desire to use us, and you have plans to make your name great in our communities. God, we need you to give us the boldness and faith to be good and faithful servants. Teach us your ways. Help us to outserve one another and model the love that we witnessed in your Son, Jesus. Reveal to us your heart, and grant us with the compassion to view those around us with your eyes of mercy, grace, and love. All these things, we ask in your name.

AMEN.

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<sup>8</sup> Cf. Heb 11:16.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. 2 Cor 1:20.

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