**Jesus is Coming Back, so Give me all Your Money!**

**Faithful, Wise, and Waiting**

In Matthew 24 Jesus directs His comments to “the end of the age” (Matthew 24:3). After giving reasons why no one (yes, no one) should try to guess when Jesus will return, He teaches what His disciples should to until then. To be precise, the very fact that we don’t know when He will return (a point he repeats) acts as the hinge for His teaching. Jesus gives His followers practical perspective as they wait for “the end of the age” (Matthew 25:1). The point to his disciples is to *be ready*, even asking, “who then is a faithful and wise servant?” (Matthew 24:45). Meaning, how can we be disciples who are faithful, wise, and waiting – all at the same time?

**In His answer Jesus tells us that how we manage our finances is a demonstration of our wisdom, faithfulness, and posture toward the kingdom of heaven.**

**Dollars, not Abilities**

I get a little insistent about how you interpret Matthew 25:15. The translation to English is commonly *talents*. Pastors and teachers then make a principled application about how we use talents, and they mean abilities. It sounds like, “please use your abilities in ministry for the kingdom of God – don’t bury it in the ground by watching too much TV”. Sure, I agree, the principle is there BUT it’s not the main idea. We could translate the original to dollars, pesos, euros, or shillings. It’s a weight of silver or gold used for exchange. The New Century Version actually does use the term “bags of gold”.

Therefore, the main idea of this teaching is that waiting for Jesus to establish his kingdom of heaven is like a rich king gave money to his stewards to manage faithfully and wisely and ready for his return.

**Settle Accounts**

I think it makes us nervous to insert the word dollars instead of talents. Many of us shudder to apply to our own household or to our pulpits the concept that wickedness and laziness could be the judgment made of us because we failed to grow the resources God has given to us (Matthew 25:26). My perspective is this, the parable of the talents is just one aspect of discipleship it’s not the entire picture. Yet, it is a significant part of the picture.

So much of our time is tied up in the management of the resource of property and money.

I’ll ward you off at the pass, I’m not a prosperity preacher, thinking that if only we’re faithful to Jesus, then we’ll grow our property holdings, actually, that’s not the intent of his parable anyway. I know that even with the best of intents the market doesn’t always turn a profitable direction. And yet it seems to be that Jesus doesn’t want money and property to be misused. One demonstration of our discipleship is our management of money. Living like a faithful and wise follower of Jesus means conducting financial business, with growth in mind, until the day of his return.

**Pastor Rob’s Financial Tip**

What about you? Have you sat in front of the master and asked Him how faithfully you are using the talents you’ve been entrusted with? How wisely, faithfully, and patiently are you awaiting his return?