



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

24 OCT 2021 | MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MOMENT | MATTHEW 25:14-30

Series : Jesus is Coming Back (Pt 4/5) | Speaker : Pastor Ben KC Lee



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming)
 2. Reward
 3. Revelation Song
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Remember that our resources are entrusted to us for God's purposes.
2. Turn our faith into faithfulness by using our resources to expand God's kingdom.
3. Be prepared to give an account to our Master on the day of His return.

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus calls for our faithfulness as we await His return. His parable of the talents (or spiritual opportunities) in Matthew 25:14-30 contrasts faithfulness and unfaithfulness. The first two servants are faithful. The third servant is not. Our faithfulness or lack of faithfulness reveals the true nature of our relationship with God. Jesus generously rewards those who faithfully steward what He has entrusted to us for His purposes on earth, and He rebukes those who do not. What we do now determines how we will spend eternity.

As disciples of Christ, we:

1. Have received opportunities from God (vv14-15)
2. Are called to be faithful (vv16-17, 20-23)
3. Will be held accountable when He returns (vv18-19, 24-30)

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Ben continues in this end times series with a focus on Jesus' third parable in Matthew 25. Called the parable of the talents – or the parable of spiritual opportunities – Jesus is using this story to call us to prepare for His return.

This parable is a call to action. But many in the church are sleeping. Many are saying, “Jesus is not coming back any time soon. I’ll do my own thing and only do just the minimum to get by.” But Christ is calling for faithfulness now, not later. But being faithful is not a natural part of our human heart. Our heart has been corrupted by sin. We are tempted to flirt with the world. We are tempted to play church. Life lulls us into complacency and laziness. However, faithfulness is an attribute of God and He requires the same from us. His steadfast dependability and loyalty to us should motivate us to be stay faithful to Him. Let us keep our hearts tender and responsive as we learn three important lessons from Jesus' parable.

1. We've Received Opportunities From God (vv14-15)

Every Christian is given a personal responsibility by our Master. We are the servants in the parable. He assesses the abilities of the servants and He matches His resources and opportunities to their abilities. “To whom much is given, much will be required” ([Luke 12:48](#)). No one is better than the other person in God's eyes. We are all equal and we are called to be faithful in using all that He has given us.

The “talents” in the story are our God-given opportunities to do good works for Him. They can be our spiritual gifts, influence, privileges, money, health, time, knowledge, intellect, abilities, etc. These are resources entrusted to us as “capital for the family business”, i.e., the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:16-20](#)). We are responsible to make the most of what we have been given. It's not how much we have, but what we do with what we have that matters.

2. We Are Called To Be Faithful (vv16-17, 20-23)

The three servants fall into two categories – faithful and unfaithful. The first two servants were faithful. They took their resources and immediately went to work. They were enthusiastic about their friendship with their master and they were grateful for the privilege to serve him. And they made full use of the opportunities. Both were faithful in the sphere they were placed in, and they did the best with what was given them.

For their faithfulness, the two servants received the same commendation, regardless of their production. They were rewarded with more responsibilities in the kingdom and in eternity. They started out as servants but God promoted them to rulers. Faithful servants will experience the Master's joy and enjoy the Father's rewards. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much” ([Luke 16:10](#)). For those of us who don't enjoy serving the Lord in faith, we will not enjoy Heaven. Our eternal destiny depends on what we do now. If we are faithful to make every moment count, serving the Lord while we wait for His return, and using our spiritual gifts, then we will be rewarded.

3. We Will Be Held Accountable (vv18-19, 24-30)

The core of the parable focuses on the third servant. Like the first two, God holds him accountable as well. This means there is a day of accountability for all of us. This will happen when Jesus returns, and He will examine our hearts. As the third servant gives his account, he exposes the attitude of his own heart. He excuses his doing nothing

by blaming his master. In the same way, we sometimes shift the blame to God for our own inaction by complaining of our lack of resources. In His assessment of this servant, Jesus is talking about people who appear to be His servants, but in their lives, do not live like servants of the King. This is Jesus' warning to those who say they are Christians but do not live like followers of Christ. He will then remove all opportunities for service from them.

There is also a deep tension found in [verse 30](#) where Jesus talks about the images of hell. No one likes a message about hell. No one likes to hear that they might be going to hell. But in RiverLife, we preach every verse in the Bible, not just the popular ones. In this shocking verse, Jesus sends the servant to eternal torment in darkness for his unfaithfulness. But hell is never meant for humans – it's designed for Satan and the demons. Therefore, we must take Jesus' warning seriously. He will not judge us based on someone else's unfaithfulness. He will judge us based on our own unfaithfulness.

Conclusion

As the Bride of Christ, we do not want to be a part-time lovers. Some of us may not be the most gifted people on earth, but whatever we do have, we want to give it fully to God. We want to live for Him, not for ourselves. Let us turn our faith into faithfulness, because faithfulness always acts. When Christ returns, may He find us active, working for the Kingdom, walking by faith, stewarding every resource He has given us for His kingdom. Our faithfulness or unfaithfulness will reveal the true nature of our relationship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What do you think are some of your own God-given resources and gifts? (Time, money, education, witness opportunities, etc.) How have you utilised these resources for God's kingdom, and how have you sharpened your gifts over the years?** [\[15 Mins\]](#)

Leader's Notes

A *reflect* question to gauge the level of understanding of what it means by "God-given resources." Can some resources be acquired without God? Some of us believe money can be made through sheer hard work and diligence. But if we look deeper, we will then ask where we get our strength to work hard from. Our physical strength or health is a precious gift from God. The same goes for our other "talents" – our physical, intellectual, creative and spiritual gifts – which each of us has been given a measure of. See [Romans 12:6-8](#) and [1 Corinthians 12:8-10](#) for the spiritual gifts we have from God. They are all resources granted by a good God to serve a divine purpose, and not just for our personal benefit.

For further reading: **Giving Time, Talents and Treasures**

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2019/02/giving-time-talents-treasures/>

Transition

We may know the resources we do have, but we may not know how much of them we are presently using for God's purposes. Before Jesus returns and makes His divine assessment – which may be too late – let us do a self-evaluation now so we can be sure of what we have and how we can offer them to God.

2. **Take a few minutes to do this self-evaluation in the cell.** [\[15 Mins\]](#)
 - a. **Estimate the percentage of your opportunities (spiritual gifts, privileges, education, abilities, etc.) that you're using right now for God.**

Put the first X where you are now, and a second X where you want to be in six months' time.

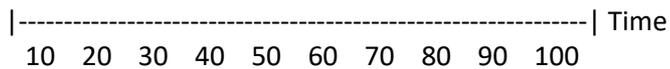
Percentage of your opportunities you're using for God right now:

|-----| Opportunities
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

b. Estimate the percentage of your time you're investing weekly in spiritual growth and ministry.

Put the first X where you are now, and a second X where you want to be in six months' time.

Percentage of your time you're investing weekly in spiritual growth and ministry:



Leader's Notes

This is a practical tool proposed by Pastor Ben to help us assess our current opportunities and time. Ask each cell member to keep one another accountable over the six months after this evaluation. Getting ready for Jesus' return means knowing our resources and gifts and then taking steps to offer them for the service of His kingdom. Encourage everyone to give God the right to change our agenda anytime He wants. As we start to steward our resources, we will not be perfect, we will likely made mistakes, and we may even sin, but we must make the effort. It's not easy to follow Jesus but it will all be worth it when we hear Him say at the end of the age, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." ([Matthew 25:23](#)) Let us use our time and our opportunities to reach those who are far away from God and get them ready with us for the return of our King.

Transition

We are all servants in Jesus' parable. He has given us good gifts and precious resources to steward. Which servant will we be? The ones who joyfully and creatively use them to expand His Kingdom and one day receive His rewards for doing so? Or the one who does nothing and is consequently condemned by Jesus?

3. What stewardship step is God calling you to take right now? (In your family, career, community, church) What may be holding you back?

Leader's Notes

A *response* question to practise what is preached, to walk the talk and model what Jesus has taught us in His parable. While we behold Christ and wait for His coming, we also labour faithfully until He returns. May He find us working in the vineyard, using our time, talents and treasures to extend His Kingdom on earth. Will we make the most of what God has given us to help save more souls for heaven? Will we be actively involved in church, in the community, and in our sphere of influence? Will we be watching, witnessing, and working for our returning King? Will we continue to love the lost, the last and the least, and proclaim the Gospel until the Day of the Lord?

For further reading: **What is the meaning of the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14?**

(<https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/what-is-the-meaning-of-the-parable-of-the-talents-in-matthew-2514/>)

Closing

Remember that:

1. Our resources have been entrusted
2. Our faithfulness will be rewarded
3. Our unfaithfulness will be punished



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- We will evaluate all that God has given us and steward them faithfully for God's Kingdom.
- We will increase the urgency of our watchfulness and the intimacy of our worship.
- We will witness to our lost loved ones and disciple them to await with us for Jesus' return.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's intervention as we experience a sharp increase in the number of community cases and a return to tighter social measures in society.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. Exam Period

- Pray for all our children who are going through their exams.
- Pray for the parents of these children as well for strength, wisdom and grace.

4. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a sharp reduction in cases, and a stabilised environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **Services Update for October.** As a result of the new measure, there will only be ONE English Adult service at 9am on Sundays. There will be NO in-person gatherings in October for children. All SuperLife classes will be done online.
2. **Current Pulpit Series: Jesus is Coming Back (3-31 Oct).** This series will unpack Jesus' prophecy on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24 & 25, and help us gain insight on how to live with understanding of the times. The series will follow a weekly rhythm of Sunday Sermons, Tuesday Prayer Room Sessions based on Matthew 25 and Thursday Equipping Nights with Peter Tsukahira, tackling four key end-time topics.
3. **Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: rlc.sg/mfh. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
4. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (e.g. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc.), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
5. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our Two-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029

ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

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