

Practicing Sabbath:
Week Two: Parable of the Bags of Gold
January 18, 2026

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five.

*‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ 21 “His master replied, ‘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!’ 22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ 23 **“His master replied, ‘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!’***

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ 26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (Matthew 25:14-30)

Observation One: Each of us has the same amount of time.

God owns everything.

God knows our time, talents, and treasures.

We are called to be good stewards of what God already owns.

Observation Two: Each of us have different amounts of talents.

People used their talents to serve the local church.

People used their talents to expand the local church.

People used their talents to worship God (not their talents).

We are called to SERVE, not to SIT.

12 I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the Lord made them holy. 13 “ Yet the people of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not follow my decrees but rejected my laws—by which the person who obeys them will live—and they utterly desecrated my Sabbaths. (Ezekiel 20:12-13)

Observation Three: We will be held accountable for how we use our time, talents, and treasures.

Reflections:

1. What unique time, talent(s), and/or treasure(s) could you practice Sabbath at HOME Church?
2. How can practicing Sabbath at the beginning of your week bring success to you (throughout the week)?
3. How can you be good stewards of the time, talents, and treasures God has given you? Share an example with those closest to you.

Welcome to HOME Church

Thank you for attending HOME Church. If you are looking for a church to call HOME, feel free to connect with us. Details are on our website at www.ourhomechurch.ca, OR the welcome card in the seat in front of you.

Upcoming News + Notes:

- **Cantonese Bible Study with Pastor Pat.** Starts today from 11 am to noon in the Blue House Conference Lounge (Basement). Please sign up at the info table in the foyer. Thank you.
- **Bible Tour: Footsteps of the Ancient Followers of Jesus in Italy.** October 6-16, 2026, with Pastor Andy + Annick. **Information Meeting TODAY between services in the church basement.** Details on the website.
- **NTS 4-week prayer guide** is available today. Printed copies are available in the foyer. Digital copies are on the website at www.nighttoshinevancouver.ca.
- **Chinese New Year Potluck Gathering** with Pastor Paul on February 14th. Sign-up starts TODAY.
- **Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy.** An OPEN Small Group online on Wednesdays from 7:30pm-8:30pm. Starts this Wednesday, January 21st. Discussion on the sermon notes. Contact Pastor Andy for the Zoom link.

Giving Options at HOME Church. Our preferred way of giving is through e-transfer debit. You can set this up with your banking platform by giving at give@ourhomechurch.ca. Please make cheques out to “HOME Church”. All giving details are on our website. **Thank you** for your continued generosity and support to the mission + vision of HOME Church.

Please stay connected to the latest news + notes on our website.

Thank you for your support during the church renovations.