

Based on the preaching from Sunday **19 July 2026**, '**Preparing for Eternity: the parable of the talents**'

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Sermon Text: **Matt 25:14-30**

Key Ideas from the Sermon:

- A "talent" was a large unit of money in Jesus' day. This parable is about how we use the money and wealth which has been entrusted to us as stewards, in order to prepare for eternity.
- This principle of stewardship has sometimes been expanded to include skills and abilities, even our time, but this parable is not about how we use our gifts and abilities but about whether we invest God's resources in God's Kingdom work, and the reward which follows if we do.
- God distributes resources to us at different levels, but the reward is the same, as the basis for that reward is faithfulness, not the amount of money invested.
- Those who neglect or ignore the resources they have been given and do not invest them in God's Kingdom reveal an unfaithful heart, for which there will also be consequences in eternity.
- How we use God's resources is a reflection of what is in our heart.



Bible Study: The Swedish Method [**Mathew 25:14-30**]

1. Begin by praying, asking God to speak through His Word
2. Read the Bible passage aloud, being careful to read slowly
3. Go back over the passage (allow about 10 minutes of silence), being on the lookout for and taking note of the following four things:



Lightbulb: This should be something that 'shines' from the passage- whatever impacts most, or draws attention.

Notes:



Question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader might like to ask the writer of the passage, or the Lord.

Notes:



Jesus: What does this passage teach me about who Jesus is, what he has done for me and what it means for me to follow him in my life.

Notes:



Arrow: A personal application for the reader's life.

Notes: