



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: ROGI (Return On God's Investment)**

**Date: December 29, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Matthew 25:14-30**

### **Notes:**

It's hard to believe 2024 is almost over! This year has flown by. At the end of each year, it is not uncommon to pause and take stock in the accomplishments of the year as it comes to a close. The measure may be how much money we made, a promotion at work, or a trip you took, etc. In today's passage we see a parable Jesus told describing a master and three of his servants. The master's measure of success was what the servants did with what he gave them. Were they responsible and diligent with what they were given or lazy and foolish? Similarly, God measures success in how we manage what He gives us. Let's look at four facts about God's investment in you.

#### **I. God has Given You Abilities (Matthew 25:14-15)**

"In the context of Jesus' ministry the sums of money entrusted to the slaves are more likely to represent not natural endowments given to men in general, but the specific privileges and opportunities of the kingdom of heaven. The opportunities open to a disciple may differ in character and magnitude, but they are all to be faithfully exploited before the master returns. It is the master who allocates the scale of responsibility; the slave's duty is merely to carry out faithfully the role entrusted to him." (France, R.T.) The point of the parable is not how much is given, but what is done with what is given.

- How are Christians gifted?
- What are examples of spiritual gifts?
- According to [1 Cor. 12:7](#), what is the purpose for the abilities and gifts God gives Christians?
- How has God gifted you?
- What abilities do you have from God?

#### **II. God Will Give You Opportunities (Matthew 25:16-18)**

The passage states that the first two servants immediately looked for opportunities to invest the talents they received. The third was not interested in investing but buried the talent he was given. As a result, the first two doubled their investment. The talents belonged to the master, and it was a reflection on the master how his servants used the talents he gave them. Likewise, the abilities we have are from God and how we use them is a reflection on God. God is glorified when we invest our abilities. When we don't invest our abilities, we rob God of glory.



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### **Notes:**

- Describe the characteristics of a Christian who diligently invests their abilities.
- What would motivate a Christian to not invest their God-given abilities, but to 'bury' them instead?
- How does the way we invest our abilities reflect on God? (How is He glorified by our use of the abilities He gave us?)
- How are you investing your God-given abilities for God?

### **III. God Will Hold Us Accountable ([Matthew 25:19-27](#))**

After some time, the master returned, ready to settle accounts. The fact he was ready to settle accounts upon his return is an indication of his expectations of what was to be done with the talents he left his servants. The first 2 servants were diligent with their talents and were rewarded. Both were rewarded based on the talents the master originally gave them. The third did not invest but instead made an accusation of the master. He made excuses why he did not invest his talent. The master had the same expectation of each of his servants. Two were motivated to please and serve the master. The third was busy watching out for himself.

- What are excuses Christians use today for not investing their abilities for God?
- The reward for the faithful servants was additional responsibility. They showed their master he could trust them with what he gave them. How can Christians demonstrate their trustworthiness in how they manage what God gives them?
- How does God hold Christians accountable for how they invest their abilities?

### **IV. God Will Give Reward ([Matthew 25:28-30](#))**

Jesus concludes this parable stating that for those who are faithful to their master, they will be given more, so much that they will have an abundance. But for the unfaithful, what they have been given will be taken away.

- How have you demonstrated your faithfulness to God by investing your abilities?
- In what areas can you improve?
- List some specific things you will work on in 2025 to do a better job of investing your abilities.
- What can you do to experience the joy of Jesus on a more regular basis?