



ONLINE

Weekly Bible Study  
Wednesday, November 6,  
2024

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## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

**Introduction:** The Parable of the Talents is one way the Gospel writer helps his audience think about the time we are in as we wait for the return of Jesus. Many early Christians, like Matthew, and especially Paul, felt Jesus' return was going to be soon. Today, we still wait for Jesus' return. Matthew reflects on the master leaving for a journey, leaving behind items of great responsibility, "talents," which is a monetary term. While the concept of how much a talent is varies, it is a great sum ... imagine one talent being close to your annual salary. The servants probably surprised that they were given no instructions on what to do with these talents, and they were probably equally surprised by what they receive from the master upon his return. While defying most strict metaphorical interpretations, this parable does get the reader thinking about judgment and the necessity, as we wait for Jesus' return, for decision and responsible actions.

### **Read: Matthew 25:14-30**

Open your Bible and read through the passage. Once you have read through this passage, take three large deep breaths, read the passage a second time. Take note of what words jump out at you. What words do you need to look up for clarity of definition. Take three large deep breaths again. Read the passage one more time.

### **Seek:**

If this parable serves as a metaphor for Jesus leaving and our waiting, it suggests we have been given something to manage while Jesus is gone. What might be some ways we define what Jesus has left us to manage?

In another parable, Matthew suggests judgment comes to those who have neglected certain people in society. How is judgment represented in this parable if we do not manage well what Jesus has given us?

How can we celebrate entering the joy of our master as we invest in what God has given to us and help it to grow in ways beyond measure?

### **Pray**

Jesus, as we wait for your return, we first give thanks for all that you have given to us ... ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Help us, Lord, that we may invest in these God-given gifts, that they may grow for the use of your Kingdom of grace, love, mercy, and compassion. In your holy name, we pray. Amen