

RISKY BUSINESS:
Walking with God on the Ragged Edge
(Matthew 25:14-30)

I. God gives His greatest blessings to those who are willing to _____ for the sake of His Kingdom!

It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:14-18 (NIV)

What is the difference between Jesus' parable and story told by the other rabbis of Jesus' day?

What was Jesus doing when he told his story?

Well done, you upright (honorable, admirable) and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy, (the delight, the blessedness) which your master enjoys. Matthew 25:21& 23 (NIV)

II. Unwillingness to take risks for God demonstrates a _____ in the life of a disciple.

[Read verses 24-30]

A. When we are unwilling to risk ourselves for God, it shows that we do not know the _____ of God.

"Master," he said, "I knew you that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground." Matthew 25:24-25 (NIV)

B. When we are unwilling to risk ourselves for God, it shows that we do not share the _____ of God.

His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant!" Matthew 25:26 (NIV)

"Throw that worthless servant outside . . ." Matthew 25:30 (NIV)

The master was furious. "That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least?" Matthew 25:26 (MES)

C. When we are unwilling to risk ourselves for God, it shows that we do not understand the _____ of God.

"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away. Matthew 25:29 (NLT)

"Take the [money] and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this 'play-it-safe' who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness." Matthew 25:28, 30 (MES)