

# FRUIT THAT'S GOOD FOR THE BODY

## FAITHFULNESS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

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### I. A *need* for faithfulness

- A. Our *family*
- B. Our *material possessions*
- C. Our *friends*
- D. Our *church*

### II. An *example* of faithfulness

#### A. An explanation of *talents*

- 1. One talent is equal to 15-20 years of *wages*
- 2. The talents are God's *property*
- 3. The talents are God's *gifts*
- 4. The talents are given to servants based on *ability*

#### B. An unspoken *expectation*

- 1. Be faithful by *investing* and taking a *risk*
  - a. The *servant* makes a decision to take a risk

#### C. An *investment* for the benefit of the master

- 1. The challenge of *stewardship*: no promise is made that the profits will be *shared*

#### ♦ Opportunities are given on the basis of *natural gifts*

#### D. An *account* for what has been given

- 1. The servant with *outstanding* abilities and opportunities
  - a. He put the Kingdom *first*
  - b. He deliberately invested for the *master*

c. He risked the possibility of *personal loss*

d. His faithfulness was *rewarded*:

- 1. An *affirmation*: "Well done"
- 2. A *title*: "good and faithful"
- 3. A *promotion*: "faithful with a few.....in charge of many"
- 4. An *invitation*: "come and share"

#### ♦ Our destiny is to partner with the *master* and realize our full *potential*

- 2. The servant with *fewer* abilities and opportunities
  - a. Limited ability but equally *faithful* and rewarded
- 3. The servant with *minimal* abilities and opportunities
  - a. He made *excuses* and misunderstood the master's *character*
  - b. He put himself *first*
  - c. He risked *nothing* and gained *nothing*
  - d. He was rewarded with loss, separation, darkness and *regret*

#### ♦ Don't bury the opportunity to take one big risk and give yourself to God

### III. An *assessment* of faithfulness

- A. What are the "little or hidden things" in your life that you can be faithful with?
  - B. What have you been given that needs to be faithfully invested in the Kingdom?
  - C. What opportunities do you see on the horizon to risk for the Kingdom?
  - D. What are you doing with the opportunity of time you've been given?
  - E. Have you taken the ultimate opportunity to risk your life for God? If not, what is keeping you from taking that risk?
- ♦ We will be accountable for the stewardship of what the master has given us