

Unexpected Wickedness

Key Scriptures

Matt 25: 24-30 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

John 12:23-25 ²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Key Point: We often think of sin as something we do, but just as often it is something we don't do.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the longest you have ever borrowed something or lent something to someone else?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Who can retell the story of the Parable of the talents? After someone successfully retells the story, read through the section printed on the left. What things stand out to you in this Parable?
- Why do you think the master had such a strong reaction against the "wicked servant?" What had he done? How does Jesus define wickedness here?
- Parables are meant to teach a spiritual truth. What spiritual truth is behind the fact that the 2 good servants doubled what they were told to invest? (what does that represent?)
- Jim Elliot, the famous martyred missionary, once said "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he can never lose?" How does his statement relate to the Parable of the talents, and John 12:23-25?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What precious seed has God placed in your hands so that when you give it back to Him, He will make it grow? What can you leverage for the gospel?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- What has God given you that you know you need to use for His kingdom? How do you need to step out in boldness this week to leverage it? Are there ways you are failing to use what God has given you?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

-
-
-