

**JESUS CHRIST NEVER FAILS.**

What is faithfulness?

- “Fidelity, that is, the quality of being true, trustworthy, and **reliable** in all one’s dealings with others.”<sup>1</sup>

“If this virtue be taken away, what is this life, but biting and devouring of one another” – Martin Luther

Matthew 25:14-30

**The Parable of the Talents**

*“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.<sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.<sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.<sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.<sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.<sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.<sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and **faithful** servant. You have been **faithful** over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and **faithful** servant. You have been **faithful** over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>24</sup> 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,<sup>25</sup> **so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.** Here, you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> 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?<sup>27</sup> 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.**<sup>28</sup> So **take** the talent from him and **give** it to him who has the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

## Interpretation

- Talents represent our opportunities, areas of influence, **resources**, etc.
- The servant assumed the **worst** about the master: Fear led to freezing up.
- The master expected what was **given** to be invested.

## Benefits of faithfulness

- 1) Allows you to plant deep satisfying roots rather than hopping from place to place looking for low hanging fruit.
  - a. In your relationship with Jesus.
  - b. In your family.
  - c. In your faith family (church).
- 2) Gives you a platform of **influence**.
- 3) Gives you a lasting investment.

Q: What are you investing in?

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<sup>1</sup> T. George, *Galatians*, Vol. 30 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994), 403-404.