

March 15, 2009

Capital Stewardship Campaign

Sermon Title: The Risk of Stewardship

Sermon Series: Building a Blessing

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30

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Sermon-Based Discussion

INTRODUCTION

Risk is big business in America. People get thrills by taking risks by doing extreme sports such as hang gliding, sky diving, white water rafting. People take risks in relationships, the stock market, and even in ministry. There's a stereotype of a risk-taker being fun-loving, intense, perhaps even reckless. Well, what about Christians? What is the general notion of Christians taking risks? Should Christians be risk-takers? If no, why not? If yes, then when should Christians take risks? We'll see how this passage addresses some of those questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you more likely to risk more to gain more, or to risk less to lose less? When you have more, are you more likely to take bigger risks or smaller risks?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

2. To have more is to risk more, would you agree? Would you rather have 5 talents, 2 talents, or 1 talent to risk and why?
3. In this passage, what clues can you find that show God wants us to take risks?
4. What was the error of the third steward in terms of risk? Why did the Master consider that error wicked?
5. What can we learn from the two stewards who were rewarded about taking "good risks"?

GOING DEEPER

To have more is to have more to risk. To be a Christian is to realize more and more that God has entrusted us our abilities, resources, and opportunities to use for His purposes. The goal isn't to avoid taking risks, but to learn to make good risks.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

God is always calling you to take risks. Perhaps the call for you is to simply begin trusting and obeying Him. Or, perhaps you've been following Him and are at a place where you truly will risk whatever He wants you to risk. If you're a regular part of BCEC, God is certainly calling you to consider what to risk for this opportunity before our church. Will you pray, converse, reflect, and seek to be stretched in this process to ask, "Lord, how would you accomplish Your will for this campaign through me?"

CHANGING YOUR MIND

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

¹⁵To 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. ¹⁶The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²²"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'