

Week 3

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.’” Matthew 15:14-15 (NRSV)

“Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”” Matthew 25:20-21 (NRSV)

The master trusted the slave to be obedient, and since the talents were given according to ability, the master did not expect more than the slave was capable of doing. The slave was given enough time and the result was that he doubled the five talents. Doubling your investment is really a great return!

Clearly the master’s expectations were realized as he rewarded the slave with both joy and additional responsibility, as he put the slave in charge of more things.

Do we think of obedience as just the performance of one act and then we’re done? Here the one act of faithful obedience was just the first step to so much more – first to an unbelievable return on the Master’s investment; second, to expanded opportunity for the slave to do even more for the Master; and third, to joy: the joy of the Master!

The faithful obedience of this slave was returned greatly multiplied, glorifying the Master, helping the slave to grow in faith, providing a sense of achievement with anticipation of the future, plus the knowledge that he was helping to advance his Master’s kingdom. Wow! What a rich harvest!

As you continue this week to consciously obey the Lord, also reflect on your past acts of obedience, and the harvest of love, joy, and advancement of God’s kingdom that has come from these acts.

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