



Take the Risk! - Mark Mitchell

Matthew 25:14-30

1. Would you consider yourself a risk taker or risk averse? Explain.
2. Discuss the parable of the talents. What surprises you about this parable? What questions does it raise?
3. Why do you think Jesus described the one-bag-guy not as wild and reckless but as ultra-conservative?
4. Do you see yourself as a one, two or five bag person? Do you ever struggle with comparison? Explain.
5. Mark called our freedom a "dangerous freedom." Why?
6. Discuss this quote by E. Stanley Jones: "The development of character, rather than direction in this, that and the other matter, must be the primary purpose of the Father. He'll guide us, but he won't override us. That fact should make us use with caution the method of sitting down with a pencil and a blank sheet of paper to write down the instructions dictated by God for the day. Suppose a parent would dictate to the child minutely everything he's to do during the day. The child would be stunted under that regime. The parent must guide in such a manner, and to the degree, that autonomous character, capable of making right decisions for itself, is produced. God does the same."
7. Why is our theology (our view of God) so critical in this discussion of investing our talents and resources into God's Kingdom?
8. How did God speak to you through this message? What specific applications can you make to your own life?



Matthew 25: 14-30 - Dominic Rivera

1. Based on verses 14-18, how would you describe the character of the wealthy man (landowner)?
2. What does the landowner celebrate in verses 19-23? What surprises or intrigues you about this “settling of accounts”?
3. The parable takes shapes starting verse 24. What is the problem with the third servant’s statement?
4. In response to his perspective of the landowner, in what ways did the third servant act (v.25)?
5. Describe a situation or relationship in which you were afraid and hid. How did it change the relationship?
6. The third servant’s fear led to hiding, and hiding led to separation (v.25-30). Seeing the generosity of God breaks the cycle. What relationship or situation do you need the grace of God to change the cycle of fear-hiding-separation?
7. Take a few minutes to pray for each other, asking that God’s grace would write a new story.