

August 16th, Ready To Roll

Part 4 in the series 'Ready for Anything'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

What's the difference between being ready for anything and being ready for everything?

What might compel us to try to be ready for *everything*?

What is the most important thing we as God's children must ultimately be ready for?

READ [Romans 14:12](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)

"Each of us will give a personal account to God." [Romans 14:12 \(NLT\)](#).

"For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body." [2 Corinthians 5:10 \(NLT\)](#)

If we are saved by grace and grace alone, what is this "judgement" Paul is referring to in these verses?

What did Jesus mean when he said *"You must be perfect — just as your Father in heaven is perfect?"* [Matthew 5:48 \(TEV\)](#)

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus' parables, including the 'Parable of the Bags of Gold' were not simple ways to teach abstract morals or ideals to those listening. Instead, His parables are important insight into Himself and His mission- to announce that God's Kingdom is arriving on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus used parables to convey the important message of God's Kingdom- a kingdom that did not fit the expectations many Israelites had at the time.

The parables allowed Jesus to make bold claims about Himself and His Kingdom that revealed truth to those who had "ears to hear" but concealed those claims from the people who were against Him. This gave Jesus the time He needed to prepare His followers, before He died on the cross.

With this in mind, read: [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received

five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag 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. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. 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 two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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 one bag of gold 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. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold 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? ²⁷ Well 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 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

1. What does this parable have to do with Romans 14:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:10, if anything?

2. In this parable, who is the master and who are the servants?

3. What do the bags of gold represent?

Just as the master in the parable gave the servants responsibility of his treasure, Jesus gives His followers responsibility of bringing His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

4. What does Jesus' Kingdom look like? Think of this questions in two parts:

a) before Jesus is crucified and resurrected i.e. what was Jesus revealing to his followers about what the Kingdom of God looks like?

b) after the resurrection.

Answers:

- a) Talk about Jesus' teachings up until this point i.e. love one another, caring for the poor, the prisoner, the sick, feeding the hungry, healing of the sick, forgiveness...
- b) The Great Commission, forgiveness...

5. What decision did Jesus' disciples have to make?

Answer: Jesus is the master in this parable, and as He heads on to Jerusalem where He will be betrayed and crucified, His followers will have to decide if they will trust Him and be faithful to His teachings or if they will be apathetic and not respond.

6. What decision do we have to make upon reading this parable?

7. If we decide to follow Jesus, then we are to play a part in bringing His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. We can do that by 'bearing fruit'. How do we do that?

Answer: Abide in Christ (John 15), allow God to perfect us, day by day, walking with him, growing in relationship with Him, finding refuge in him during the storms of life, and subsequently become people who are shaped by Him.

8. The servant who was given one bag of gold, passively hid it in the ground. Does God want us to live a life of passivity?

Answer:

God did not create us for a life of passivity and ease. Consequently we will never be content, complete or fulfilled with such a life. We find these things in overcoming. In Godly conquest, in bearing fruit. And that's why God wants to make you ready for hardship and suffering, because these things make you ready for heaven. In fact, it's often in hardship and suffering that we have our most transforming encounters with God.

9. Is there any significance in the placement of this parable (the parable of the bags of gold) within the narrative (the "woes", the prediction of the destruction of the temple, the day and hour unknown, the ten bridesmaids...)?