



Monthly Devotionals

April

God's Gravitas

as Judge

Matthew 25: 14-30

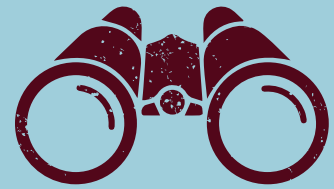
When you picture God, what characteristics come to mind? You might know him as compassionate, gracious, merciful and forgiving. He is of course, all of those things. Yet there are some aspects of God's character we might, unintentionally or not, choose to dismiss. One of those could be God's authority as a judge. While it can be uncomfortable for us to dwell on, recognising God's gravitas as a judge is fundamental for us living a life that is pleasing to him.

In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the second coming and the judgement which will take place in those days. From verses 14 - 30, we read **the parable of the talents**, or in some translations, the bags of gold.



**Read Matthew
25: 14-30**

What do you see?



What do you see in these verses about the master's authority to judge? You may wonder if the image of God judging the third servant deems him harsh and uncompromising. However, let's put it into a different context.

If you were a manager in a workplace and you gave all your employees everything they needed to complete a task and you came to see that one employee was not doing anything with what you gave them, you would have to address that issue. It's the same with us and God.

God doesn't judge us because He is a 'hard man' as the third servant perceived his master to be. He judges us because he is just. He loves us and wants to bless us. He can entrust us with many things when we are faithful.

Do you notice that the first two servants are initially given the same reward despite the first one earning more bags of gold? In verse 15, it says their master gave them bags of gold 'according to their ability.' God won't give us anything we literally cannot do, but are we willing to do His work? Are we seeking Him for it?

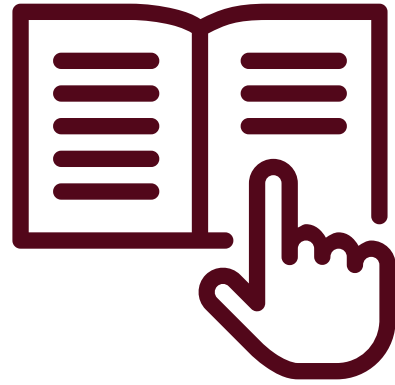
There is a real gravity in what Jesus is saying here and we cannot waste time getting distracted with things that God has not ordained. It is important to seek God in every aspect of what we're doing because the judgment will come and He longs for us to 'share in His happiness.'

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**Share in my
happiness**

Key verses

- Matthew 24:30
- Matthew 12: 36-37
- Romans 6:23
- Revelation 20:11-15
- Romans 14:12
- 1 Corinthians 4:5



Prayer Points

In your prayer life, seek God on:

- Your current levels of humility and heart's desire to do His work
- Whether there are things you're doing or fretting over where you need to let go
- Opportunities to do His work, right from where you are