

1  **A GODLY CHURCH IS A GIVING CHURCH**

2 

**INTRODUCTION**

\* The context of this text.  
(Matt 25:14-30)

\* Our context.

\* What is giving?

(What I can afford to contribute to the church ?)

\* Worship and giving are linked.

3 

**Matt 25:14-30**

**A.THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLE.**

"In God's Kingdom every person is given opportunities according to their ability and expected to serve faithfully."

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**Issues:**

\* Each of the servants operates with delegated gifts. (The talents belong to someone else.)

\* The travelling man is God in action.

\* Gifts and responsibilities are matched (by God) - He knows!

5 

\* Talents were finance, but became the whole of life - except for the unfaithful servant.

\* Faithful servants transformed privilege to action.

\* The unfaithful servant is eliminated from the joys of Heaven.

6 

**B. THE PARABLE AND OURSELVES.**

\* God is no absent Master.  
( as the man was.)

\* We are custodians of God's goodness. (we are stewards)

\* The opportunities we are given are our lives. (not simply financial resources)

7 

**C. THE PARABLE AND CUSTODIANSHIP**

\* God is Creator and owner of all. (Psalm 50:1-15)

\* All that humanity is and has, is held in trust for God.  
(1 Chron 29:10-19)

8 

\* We are to acknowledge our stewardship. (Mal 3:6-12)

\* God's people live in dynamic interaction with Him.

\* Being custodians of the good things of God covers not only the use of money, but the whole of life.

\* We are called as a part of that stewardship to give to the work of God's Kingdom.

**BUT**

9 

\* Giving is only a part of stewardship – (a demonstration of a wider servanthood).

\* All life takes on a new significance as soon as we realise that whatever we have is ours as a trust.

10 

**CONCLUSION.**

**A GODLY CHURCH IS A GIVING CHURCH**

**SINCE:**

\* It understands the source of its resources.

\* Its people are active participants in the "flow through" of God's resources.

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\* It manages giving on the basis of "What is God planning to do through us."

\* It watches with awe at what God can do through faithful servants.

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**GIVING is:**

participation in God's action on earth.

an external expression of an internal character.

**A GODLY CHURCH IS A GIVING CHURCH, BECAUSE GOD IS A GIVING GOD.**