

PRINCIPLE #5

VICTORY BEYOND COMPETITION

**God Requires Total Investment Today for Eternal Return
Tomorrow**

PRE-GAME WARM UP

Read **Matthew 25:14-30**

Note: While a “talent” in this story literally refers to a sum of money, in our modern context the application refers to the sum of our lives—gifts, abilities, resources, etc.

1. How do you feel about letting other people borrow things that are valuable to you?

How do you feel when someone lets you borrow *their* important stuff?

2. Does it seem like what happened to the guy with one talent was fair? Why or why not?
3. Just like the occasional random drug test that may occur in the sport you work with, what would be the result of a random examination of your life and how you are using it?

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Ask: How do I live for God's kingdom instead of my kingdom?

Read: Matthew 25:14-30 "The Parable of the Talents"

Theme: God requires total investment today for eternal return tomorrow

Live It: Investing your sport and life in God's kingdom aligns you with God's mission in the world

Matthew 25:14-30

"Talent" then: A sum of money equal to 20 years wages--millions in today's currency

"Talent" now: Refers to a broader group of things including your money, abilities, opportunities, personality, passions, etc.

S _____ (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Romans 12:6-8)

H _____

A _____

P _____

E _____

I. God gives his servants a choice: Invest His talents or Bury His talents (Matthew 25:16-18)

Stewardship: To be entrusted with the possessions of another person to watch over or use for a time

A. Invest His talents _____

B. Invest His talents _____

God wants all of you. God doesn't want a part of your life. He asks for ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your mind, and ALL your strength. God is not interested in halfhearted commitment, partial obedience, and the leftovers of your time and money. He desires your full devotion, not little bits of your life. Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren

C. Invest His talents _____

II. God evaluates your investments: Gain rewards or Suffer consequences (Matthew 25:19-30)

A. There are _____ to be gained (v19-23)

B. There are _____ to be suffered (v24-30)

C. You have _____ for what He entrusts to you.

III. God gives us perspective on His kingdom priorities: Invest in His kingdom or Invest in my kingdom

A. Understand the SHAPE of your life

B. Invest your SHAPE in God's priorities

His Word/Himself

People

Issues of justice and mercy

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LIVE IT

1. As you listened to this Principle being taught, did you become aware of any hidden or forgotten talents that God has given you? List them out.

2. What would stop you from investing your talents immediately, completely, and faithfully?

3. If you knew you only had one year left, who would you invest your life in and what would you do to leave a legacy?

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LAB REFLECTION TIME

What is the question we are asking for this Principle?

- Does it Matter How I live today?

What is the main point(s) of this Principle?

- Living/serving with an eternal perspective

Discussion Questions

1. What gifts and abilities do you feel God has entrusted you with?
2. What hurts your perseverance in trying to be a good and faithful servant with those gifts? What builds your perseverance for the same?
3. What are some ways you could “invest” your talents to bring joy to the Master?
 - a. Are you faithfully doing that?
 - b. If not, what do you need to do in order to better use your talents to honor God?
4. How could you implement one or more of these Principles into your career?
5. If you only had one month left to live and make an impact, what do you want your legacy to be?

**“Your career is short,
your life is short.
Focus on what really matters
(God, people).”**