



REPLENISHED – Faithfulness Matters 28th March 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Where do you see yourself in God's story?
2. Read [Matthew 25:14-30](#)
3. What does each parable have?
4. What is the very clear message given through each of these parables?

Engage:

5. These 3 parables speak of talents, the meaning that we have today comes from a 15th Century interpretation of the word that we understand today as gifts or abilities. But when Jesus was on earth, it meant just money.
 - One talent is 6000 denarii (denarii = 1 day) - 16 to 20 years wages.
 - One talent is worth about £620,000 to £650,000 pa. 5 talents over £3m.
6. What do the talents mean to us today?
7. What is the costly thing that God has given us today?
8. In what way do these parables challenge us?
9. What are you invested in?

Framework:

- Jesus speaks about faithfulness and obligation over a long period of time which is key in the talents. There are rewards but also the danger of exclusion which He describes as weeping and gnashing of teeth.
10. What 'most important event' is yet to come/yet to happen in the history of the world?
 11. Do you have a sense of urgency when it comes to Jesus' return?
 12. Read [2 Peter 3:1-12](#)
 13. What are the two dangers mentioned in the above scripture?

"We must live like Jesus is returning tomorrow – but build like he is not."

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14. Let's consider the 2 parables of the virgins and the servants together – one is about relationship and the other about responsibility.

- The wise virgins – it was about being (who you are).
- The faithful stewards about doing.

“You can be in the church, but not know the Lord – that’s the warning of the 5 foolish virgins
You can be in the church, but not living your life for God – that’s the warning of the unfaithful steward.”

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15. Here are some parallels:

Covenant	Kingdom
Relationship	Responsibility
Being	Doing
Abiding	Fruitfulness
Intimacy	Action
Oil	Lamp
Sons	Servants
Identity	Purpose
10 Virgins	The Talents

16. What should the things we do for God always flow out of?

17. Where should our identity and worth be drawn from?

- The overflow of our relationship should be action.
- We are a son or daughter before we are a servant.

18. Read and discuss [Matthew 25:15](#)

- Everyone is unique with a unique purpose and a unique destiny – we are all equal before the cross.
- We do not need to look at others and think that you could achieve more if you had what they have. God Has given you what you need to fulfil your purpose in Him, and the purpose is to bring glory to God.
- It is what you do with what God has entrusted you with.

19. Read and discuss [Matthew 25:19](#)

- Jesus is coming back for His return on His investment. To see fruit.
- How long until He returns? We don't know. But we know He is coming back for a church that is ready.

20. Read [Galatians 6:8](#)

21. Investment always involves risk. How risk averse are you?

22. Risk is a basic ingredient in faith. And if we take a risk in God's hands, is it really a risk at all?

23. What is the difference between 'religion' and 'relationship'?

“Don’t just be a survivalist in the Kingdom, take a risk. Invest in something that you cannot fulfil. Use what you have and invest it in something eternal.”

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24. You may have invested in this worlds system, there is nothing wrong with being wise. But has your decision making been made in the light of the truth that Jesus is returning?
25. The truth in this parable sharpens us and gives us focus. If you are waiting for something important (like GCSE level results) then it can consume you. It becomes a framework of your mindset – if you understand that it will give you an urgency to tell others about Jesus.
26. Do you need to do more of that?
27. Do you need a real incentive?
 - Here’s one - Jesus is returning.
28. Read [Hebrews 10:25](#)
29. The outcome is to begin to invest your lives in the kingdom. Orientate your life around God’s priorities. It means that for every decision you make, you first ask yourself, “is this extending Gods Kingdom?” That comes in different forms:
 - Will this decision bring me closer to Jesus?
 - Will this decision help someone find Jesus as their saviour?
 - Will this decision encourage other believers?
 - Will this decision expand local and world mission?
 - Will this decision bring glory to God?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to be faithful and to invest my life in your Kingdom purposes. In Jesus Name Amen