

**BEGINNINGS – HOW OUR THINKING
IMPACTS OUR BEGINNINGS**

Matthew 25:14-30

CONTEXT IS JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT HIS RETURN AT THE END OF DAYS.

1. 24:36, the days of Noah...
2. 24:40, two men in the field, ...
3. 24:43, the homeowner and the thief,
4. 24:44, the faithful servant while the master was delayed ...
5. 25:1, the five wise virgins...

COMPARING THE BEHAVIOR OF THE THREE SERVANTS:

1. Attitude
2. Expectations
3. Emotions
4. Beliefs

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behavior

- Adapted from:
 - John Maxwell, Change My Thinking
 - Robert McGee, Search for Significance

COMPARING ATTITUDES (WHAT I THINK ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS BEHAVIOR)

5/2-talent servants:

- No delay
- 2x return – cared

1-talent servant:

- Doesn't care – hides in ground
- Blames his inaction on master

COMPARING EXPECTATIONS

5/2-talent servants:

- Possible;
- Immediate action;
 - “Seed you sow equals the crop you grow.”

1-talent servant:

- Not possible.
- The master gets profit.
- Its only one talent.

COMPARING EMOTIONS/FEELINGS

5/2-talent servants:

- **Excitement** – immediate action
- Certain enough.

1-talent servant:

- Afraid.
 - You are harsh.
- Hid in dirt.

COMPARING BELIEF

5/2-talent servants:

- Master is **worth** it.
- Just. Faithful. Trustworthy.
- They knew him.

1-talent servant:

- **Totally different perspective on the master.**
 - You are harsh.
- Hid his property in the dirt?
 - Believes it is better that no one knows he has it.

HOW CAN I EMBRACE A NEW BEGINNING?

1. **Change my thinking** about Jesus Christ.
 - a. He desires a personal, loving relationship with me that intersects with my daily life and life decisions.
 - V 25:24, “I knew you to be a hard man...”
 - b. Begin my day with Jesus Christ...

- **Ps. 86:5** For you, O Lord, are **good** and **forgiving**, **abounding in steadfast love** to all who call upon you. (ESV)
- **Ps. 103:2** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not **all his benefits**, ... 5 who **satisfies you with good** so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's...

HOW CAN I EMBRACE A NEW BEGINNING?

2. **Persevere** through the change until it is a new, positive habit.

- V 25:19, “after a long time...”
- Phil. 1:6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thess. 5:24, Phil 2:12-13

HOW CAN I EMBRACE A NEW BEGINNING?

3. **Change my expectations** of the rewards of a new beginning.
 - 1 talent servant – **no expectations**
 - 5/2 talent servants – the **possibilities** were endless.
 - “Possibility thinkers.”

HOW CAN I EMBRACE A NEW BEGINNING?

4. Change my thinking about myself.

- 1-talent servant saw himself:
 - A. Hid his talent.
 - B. Worthy to be punished
 - C. He had always failed. Why try?
- He “projected” his view of himself upon the master.

HOW CAN I EMBRACE A NEW BEGINNING?

- 1-talent servant:
 - Likely been “beaten” down by society
 - Likely never been seen as a 5/2-talent servant
 - Likely been called bad names, ridiculed
 - He is performing as everyone expected.
- Will a 5/2 servant:
 - Respect, dignity, help but not enable.

NEXT STEPS

1. This next week, schedule some personal time to “think.” Ask these questions:
 - A. Where do I need a fresh start? Am I “hiding” an area of my life from God?
 - B. What are my expectations if I do so?
 - C. What if Christ were my guide? Choose to believe Him for the possible.
 - D. Take the first step – with Christ.