

**New Song Community Church**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2020**  
**“It’s in the Bag”**  
**Belief – About- God**

**Introduction:**

Parables have always caught my attention regarding things so practical and useful in helping gain understanding about issues in life the Bible speaks so directly to without having to default to culture or social norms. In order to gain a fuller understanding of the Parable of the Bags of Gold, let’s examine together some of the ways we might transfer its message into conversations and encounters that could bear fruit in your social encounters this week. Let’s make stewardship our focal point.

**Lesson 1**

**Reread the text of Matthew 25:14-28**

- A. God gives every person on earth the same amount of hours every day. How faithful do you believe you are in managing the time allotted to you?
- B. How would you evaluate the excuses offered by the unfaithful steward toward his master?
- C. Are their buried resources the Lord has given you that you need to uncover and activate?

**Lesson 2**

**Jesus believes in you    John 15:9-11**

- A. Have you become a good steward of the love of God in your life toward others?
- B. Make it your goal today to express the love of God to someone by sharing your belief about the goodness of God
- C. Send a text, note, or call to someone that you believe needs to know of God’s love for them

**Lesson 3**

**Let’s take a look and discover some of the gifts the Lord has made available to believers.    I Cor. 12:1-11**

- A. The Lord gives a variety of spiritual gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

- B. If you have not already discovered your spiritual gifts, seek the Lord in prayer for them to be revealed to you
- C. Ask the Lord, in prayer, to reveal to you someone that would benefit through your faith to use your spiritual gifts.

#### **Lesson 4**

**Read the prayer that Jesus prayer for His disciples and for others who would believe in Him    John 17:20-26**

- A. The prayer of Jesus expresses love and concern for all those who believe in Him and the Father
- B. Are you reconciled to the fact that we are all loved equally by the Lord but not given the same capacity to handle talents?
- C. What is your response to the fact that the Lord bestows favor on some and not on others?

#### **Lesson 5**

**Reread the text of Matthew 25:29-30**

- A. What are you feeling about the Lord giving more to people who have a greater capacity to produce increase?
- B. Do you believe the Lord values people more who produce more?
- C. Have you buried any “talent” that the Lord has entrusted to you?

#### **Lesson 6**

**We should address any fears that we have about failure to produce increase with what the Lord has entrusted to us.    Matt. 25:24-25**

- A. We must be honest with ourselves and realize that we know what the Lord requires of us
- B. In prayer, address your fear of failure to meet the increase with what the Lord has entrusted you with.
- C. Bear in mind that you are a steward of everything the Lord has given you and it still belongs to Him

The two words we should try not to forget are stewardship and opportunity. We will find great joy celebrating, with the Lord, the increase we have gained by investing the talents that He has given us to manage for Him.