

## “Using what we have”

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and then pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read Matthew 25:14-28

Watch the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/h5UgdC8uwec>

As you reflect on the story of the three servants, some questions you might ask yourself:

**What changed realities do I need to embrace?** This story is rooted in a change of circumstances, the servants needed to take new responsibilities in the light of this. The owner was giving the servants the task of fulfilling their potential through their own endeavours. For many of us, recent circumstances have similarly given us greater responsibility for our own discipleship journey. How have you reacted to that responsibility? How are you taking the initiative to seek to reflect the nature of Christ? To fulfil the purposes of God? Are there responsibilities that you need to grasp?

**What has God placed in your hands?** Don't shy away from current circumstances or "bury them in the ground. Remember that the least able of the servants admitted a sense of fear. Take some time to acknowledge what's on your plate right now; don't preclude anything because it is insufficiently spiritual. you can't see any Gospel purpose in it or even because it's painful. Invite God into that reality. What each of these employees was holding was a blend of the person they were and the relationship they had with their employer. Try to see your own circumstances in the same light – something that God can use and that you can use within God's purposes.

**Who can I support and be supported by?** Recognise that these three individuals belonged to a greater whole – they had a common bond and identity. You also belong to a wider community of God's people. Who is struggling at the moment and how can you be a support and encouragement to them? Who is flourishing, and what measure of grace might you need to allow them to be an encouragement and a support to you? How can we journey through current realities as those who have common experiences and responsibilities to share?

### PRAYER

Loving God – help me to live my life as your willing servant. Help me to see each circumstance, whatever it may entail, as that which is placed in my hands by you. Help me to be a faithful steward of those things that I might prefer not to carry, and to gratefully share those things that are not mine alone to enjoy. Make me mindful not only of the burdens that I bear, but the loads that others carry. Grant us the fellowship of sharing the task together. And so whatever the circumstances I face or have yet to encounter, help me to use them well for your purpose and glory. AMEN