

**The Hole In Our Gospel:
Putting the American Dream to Death**

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“The U.S. ideal according to which equality of opportunity permits any American to aspire to high attainment and material success.”

“A life of personal happiness and material comfort as traditionally sought by individuals in the U.S.”

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.

¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?’

²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “‘Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

1] You have been entrusted with God’s resources.

“It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.” [v.14]

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God

. . . otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

SERMON NOTES

He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land . . . He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert. . .

You may say to yourself, “My power and strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

“To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability.” [v.15]

2. Expect reward for faithfulness.

“Master, you entrusted me . . . see, I have gained more.”
[vv. 20, 22]

“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master’s happiness.” [vv. 21, 23]

Hebrews 12:2 “[Jesus] who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame”

3. Expect exposure for Fear.

“I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See here is what belongs to you.” [v.25]

‘His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! . . . Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ [v. 26, 30]

SERMON NOTES

What is God’s American Dream?

Some Questions for us:

Who do I believe is the owner of what I have-me or God?

Do I feel entitled or entrusted with what I have?

Would I be eager to show God what I have done with what He has entrusted to me?

What have I done with my understanding of, experience of and ability to communicate the Gospel?

What do I need to change with my spending, saving and giving so that one day I will hear these words from my Lord, “You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s joy”?