

“Risky Living”

Matthew 25:14-30

INTRODUCTION:

Risky living... is it worth taking a risk for the sake of Christ?

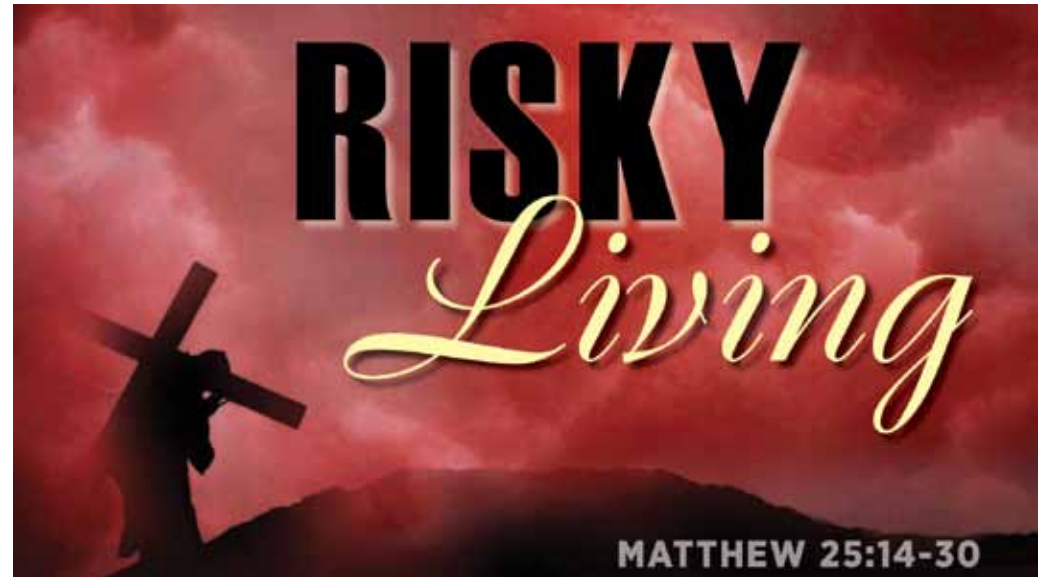
I. GOD TAKES A RISK FOR US

- A. What bigger risk could there be than God’s “John 3:16 risk”?
- B. Parents take the risk of love for rebellious children
- C. At the cross of Jesus God risked it all to pay our debt of sin
- D. God continues to risk for us, as He puts His blessings into our hands (Matthew 25:14)

II. GOD ASKS US TO TAKE A RISK FOR HIM

(Matthew 25:14-30)

- A. The parable of the talents (a “talent” is approximately 20 years salary) is not complicated: one servant got 5 talents, one got 2 and one got 1
 1. God gives us His treasure & asks us to take the risk of using it for Him
 2. We are not to just hoard it & keep it for ourselves
- B. God owns; we manage (a steward manages the property of another)
 1. We have a problem with the concept of ownership & possessions - *The boy with the ‘mountain’ of french-fries*
 2. When God asks us to manage (be a steward) He is doing us a big favour; He protects us from the foolishness of thinking we can handle life alone.



C. God entrusts; we take a risk by investing for Him

1. In the parable of the talents, one servant hoarded in fear... buried his talent, but two servants risked... invested... and experienced great joy (Matthew 25:19-23)
2. Like a child learning to walk, when we step out in faith, trust God and risk, we experience great joy

D. God expects a return

1. The master in the parable returned so the servants could give to Him (with interest) what he loaned to them
2. We give to God, not to the church budget; we give to God, not to pay bills

CONCLUSION: *Our risky management brings God’s reward:
“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21 & 23)