

SERMON NOTES:



17th May, 2026

Part 3 - For the Life of the World
Made for Love

Pastor Mick Spann

Big Idea:

- Ephesians 2:10
- God's workmanship - Created in Christ Jesus - For good works

Key Passage: Matthew 25:14–30

How to Read Parables

- Don't obsess over every detail
- Parables are like impressionist paintings that teach us about reality from Jesus' perspective

1) Key Reality — God is the Master

- The servants belong to Him
- The resources belong to Him
- Everything entrusted is temporary stewardship

2) Faithful Stewardship

Faithful servants:

- Use what the Master entrusted
- Put resources to work
- Participate in the Master's joy

The Master delights in:

- Involving His servants
- Fruitfulness
- Inviting His servants to share in His joy

3) Unfaithful Stewardship

The Bad Servants problem wasn't a lack of ability or resources.

His problem was distrust

- He viewed the master as harsh
- Fear shaped his response
- He buried what he was given

4) This is not "Works Salvation"

- The masters reward is not earned by "doing enough"
 - The deeper issues here are: Trust, Allegiance and Heart posture toward God

This is Humanity's ancient problem

- Adam & Eve questioned God's goodness. Their sin was born out of distrust.

5) What Faithful stewardship looks like

In the very next verses (Matthew 25:31–40) Jesus identifies Himself with those who are in need. The “least of these”.

- According to Jesus Faithfulness looks like: Compassion, Generosity, Hospitality and Care for people.
- God’s heart appears in His people, who allow His Gifts to Overflow out of their own lives.
- God Will condemn those who reveal by their nature that they don’t follow Him.
- (Consider Amos 5:11-15)

6) Everything we have is a Gift entrusted to us

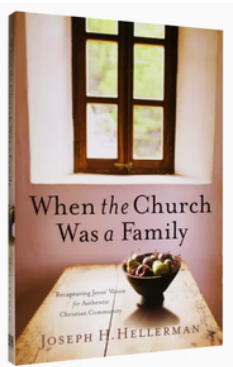
The question isn’t ‘what do I own?’... but ‘what has my master entrusted to me?’

- Time, Money, Skills, Homes, Work...
- With this mindset, ordinary life becomes and opportunity for faithful stewardship.
- For example our dining table can become a place where:
 - Strangers become guests
 - Burdens are shared
 - Prayer becomes normal
 - Hospitality becomes mission
 - The forgotten feel remembered
- Maybe your “table” is: Fishing, Gardening, Music, Painting, Woodworking, Phone calls

*Faithful stewardship means taking ordinary things
and surrendering them to an extraordinary King*

.....

Additional resources that have been helpful in Mick’s preparation towards this message:



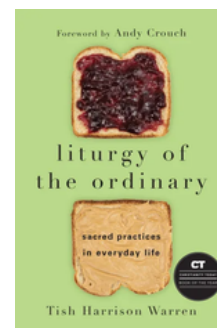
**When the Church
was a Family**



Great Podcast Conversation

Church Around the Table

John Mark Comer, Daena Dooley, and Chris and Merryl Weinand



**Liturgy of the
Ordinary**



An insightful video that explores
Jesus teaching in Matthew 25

Dr Jonathan Pennington



Interesting Article:
Beyond Money: What the Parable
of the Talents Really Teaches

Jeannine Brown

Seeing God through Work

SMALL GROUP OUTLINE

CONNECT – *help people get comfortable*

What did you dream of becoming as a young person? What did you not want to become?

REVIEW

Watch Episode #3:
Creative-Service



Read the key idea, verse, and passage. What insights did you take away from this week's scripture and message?

Key Idea God's plan for our work is to seek him through it.

Key Verse *Colossians 3:23-24*

Key Passage *Matthew 25:14-29*

DISCUSS – talk through the content to gain understanding

- How does Matthew 25:14-29 add to your understanding of what work is or is not?
- Share a word or phrase that expresses what you learned about work from this week's message or video. Briefly explain.
- How does self-centered work (rather than God-centered, God-glorifying work) affect the culture? What does this have to do with our understanding of salvation?
- How can your spiritual gifts, abilities, and hardships all be significant gifts in our creative service for the life of the world?
- If we describe work as whatever you put your energy towards, in the context of our daily labor, how does Matthew 25:14-20 reframe your understanding of our work?

continued on next page

- What changes for you when you see your gifts put to good use? What is the impact if people are unable to see their work as seeking God's righteousness?
- In what ways do justice and virtue inform the way you view the daily use of your gifts and the gifts of others?
- How does this understanding of your work challenge the common understanding of the American Dream?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE – taking time to listen to God and respond

Pray: Ask God to show you how he has gifted you for his glory and for the life of the world.

Journal: Write out all of the gifts that God has given you to use for his glory and for the life of the world.

- They might be skills, talents, or strengths.
- They might be specific experiences or insights.

Share:

- Which of these gifts are especially valuable to you? Why?
- Are there any gifts that you are not currently using? Why?

Journal:

- Write down five individuals or groups affected by your work.
- Write down how the excellence of your work has affected these people, positively or negatively.
- Write down how your decisions concerning justice and virtue in your work have affected these people, positively or negatively.

Share:

- Talk about how one person or group has been affected by your work.
- Discuss one change you could make to seek God's righteousness through your work.

CHALLENGE – *live it out in the coming week*

Each morning this week, dedicate your work as a way to seek God's righteousness and love others. At night, reflect on the ways your work accomplished those things. Thank God for trusting you to contribute your work to his plans for the life of the world.

PRAY – *as benediction*

Read Philippians 2:3-4 aloud.