

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

Last week we saw how the presence of Jesus will shift us, and this week we saw how the mission of Jesus shifts us. It's easy to believe the lie that Christianity is safe, but as we learned in the story of the 10 servants, the mission of Jesus shifts us from making our lives safe to making our lives count.

1. **The King will inspect what He's asked us to invest.** Just like anyone who trusts someone else to invest their money wisely, Jesus is going to ask us to give an account of how well we invested our lives in the furthering of His mission. If our goal is to bubble wrap our lives, then we'll find ourselves like the third servant you wasted his resources by not investing his resources.
2. **Jesus isn't looking for money managers; He's looking for Kingdom leaders.** While this is obviously a story about investing resources, the greater story is about how our King is looking for servants whom He can trust with more authority. Notice that He didn't make them manage more money, but instead gave them authority over cities.
3. **The shift from maintaining to multiplying.** Fear causes us to maintain what we don't want to lose, but faith causes us to multiply what we were never intended to keep. The comparison chart (on page two) shows some of the key shifts, but the bottom line is that the Church will never fulfill the commandment to make disciples of all nations without embracing the challenge to multiply.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- How does the shift from maintaining to multiplying address the reason for Jesus telling the story in verse 11? What is He expecting us to do as we wait for His return?
- We talk a lot about the presence of Jesus, but all of the work that Jesus asked the servants to do was to take place in His absence. Describe a time when you felt that kind of distance from God. Did it make it harder or easier to live faithfully? How can faithfulness in "absent" times reveal a readiness for greater authority?
- How does the master respond to the first 2 servants? Notice that he told both of them, "Well done," even though one had made twice as much as the other. Discuss the difference between focusing on OBEDIENCE and focusing on RESULTS. Which was the master focusing on?
- How was the third servant's response shaped by the faulty perception he had of the master? What are some faulty perceptions of God that can cause us to "bubble wrap" our lives in fear?
- If we're going to make our lives count instead of making them safe, then we'll find ourselves being spent like currency anywhere the Lord can get the best return on His investment. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and discuss the reward that awaits us when we spend our lives for the mission of Luke 19:10.
- Review the chart on the following sheet. Are there other differences between maintaining and multiplying that you can think of?
- What takeaway did you have from this week's message? What is the Lord telling you to do in response to it?

MAINTAINING

Defensive
My church
Collects resources
Delay causes fear
Insulated
Resources are taken
Values seating capacity

MULTIPLYING

Offensive
His Kingdom
Invests resources
Delay causes focus
Celebrated
Authority is given
Values sending capacity

shift