

Vision Sermon- Double or Nothing | Parable of the Gold Bags | Matthew 25:14-30

These studies are written for small groups but can be adapted for individual use and are intended to accompany our sermon series.

IN – Who is at the table? (10 minutes)

If in a group - ask someone to pray for those who are absent and send them an encouraging text, then catch up with each other if you haven't done so already.

If you are on your own - spend time praying for your Christian friends or a specific area of life in HTL.

UP - Where is Jesus at the table? Spend 30 minutes studying scripture which should lead you into a time of worship and seeking His presence for the remaining time you have together.

- 1) **Vision revisited:** At the start of each term, we pause to revisit the calling the Lord has given us here at HTL. A pause both to check what has been, where we are now and where we are headed. To remind us:
 - Looking back to September the call was to “*Come follow me*” (apprentice) ‘*take up your cross and follow Jesus*’
 - Where we have been from January to the present has been a continuation but with a broader theme of “*New Wine Skins*” (the body of Christ here) cleansed *in surrender*, in order to be rejuvenated and renewed

How has it been for you?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- 2) The servants who received five and two bags of gold invested it so that at their master's return they had doubled the amount. See verses 21 and 23. The master's response was the same, therefore the key is not in our abilities but in faithful Kingdom Investment. What does this look like for you and HTL?
- 3) The third servant received one bag of gold and buried it. See verses 24-25. He clearly didn't know his master. How can you ensure you keep investing in your relationship with God?
- 4) Why do you think and feel the Lord has given us this scripture in pursuit of his vision for us?

OUT - Who is missing from the table? Spend 10 minutes praying for the salvation of your non-Christian friends, family and associates, ensuring you include those who live here in Leicester.

Take away challenge: Sharing our testimony of how we came to faith and testimonies of how we continue encounter the Lord is important. With whom will you share this week?