

Sermon Series: Sowing the Seed — the Art of Godly Giving – Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN – 8/3/2008
Title: “Godly Risk Taking”
Text: Matthew 25: 14-30
Intro.: *Ills.:* Drama – the Talent followed by reading of text
Theme: Stepping out in faith when accepting a ministry challenge from God is not treading where only fools were go, neither is it massaging the situation to reach an acceptable risk, but it listening to and obeying the lead of God.

Godly risk taking – it’s easy . . . when you know WHO is in control

- When God calls us to risk, it is easy because it is not our stuff but His that we are working with
 1. Master **entrusted** (vs. 14) his possession to be invested
 2. *Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer. Ephes. 1:3*
 3. **Ills.: Risking Success**
- When God calls us to risk, it is easy because it isn’t even your ability but His giftedness at work within you
 1. Jesus’ parable teaches God does not give and expect more from you than what he has equipped you to do
 - a. **according to his ability** (vs. 15)
 - b. Talent = 3 years wage (1st --15 yrs @ \$70,000=\$1,050,000; 2nd – 6yrs = \$420,000; 3rd -- 3yrs. =\$210,000)
 2. Knowing that it is not what you do but what God enables that moves you from paralysis over your inability
 - a. **Ills.: Sometimes, you’ve got to rock the boat**
 - b. *For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Philip. 2:13*
- **Sowing the Seed** is not about what we can do for God but what God can and will do through us
 1. *For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord. 2 Cor. 8:3*

Godly risk-taking – it’s all about faith’s attitude

- Godly risk-taking begins in a surrender of all that I am and have to my Lord and Savior Jesus
 1. Jesus himself surrendered his plans, agendas, schedule to the Father’s will
 - a. *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” John 6:38*
 2. *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philip. 2:5*
- Godly risk-taking in my life is about a relationship not a performance
 1. The master (God’s) wants a relationship with you
 - a. *‘Well done, good and faithful slave. . . enter into the joy of your master.’ (vss. 21,23)*
 - b. **Ills.: Picture in my office**
 - c. If our relationship with the Father is secure in Jesus, we respond immediately from respect not coercion (vs.16)
 2. We joyfully and passionate take every opportunity to move God’s kingdom forward
 - a. *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Col. 4:5*
 3. Our faithfulness is measured by inches not miles
 - a. *You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. vs. 21*
 - b. Careers & ed choice, marriage & family options, ministry & mortar plans
 - c. Making the greatest impact for Christ in the smallest areas in the short time you are here on this earth
- Godly risk-taking is about fearless confidence when making the **BIG DECISION**
 1. Live under grace and be fear-free of making a mistake with the things God gives us
 - i. The **first & second servant** serve master from **JOY** (21,23), the **last servant** was self-serving out of **FEAR** (25)
 - b. *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4: 10,18*
 2. Faithful/joyful in parenting, serving in ministry, stepping out in faith, giving away from self (**Sowing the Seed**)
 3. **Ills.:** A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. —Philanthropist John Shedd (1850–1926)
- The bottom line of our prayerful and Spirit-led decision to participate in **Sowing the Seed** is not about . . .
 1. **What I want to do . . .**
 2. Or even **what I am able to do.**
 3. **Sowing the Seed** is all about **what does God want me to do** and **am I willing to serve Him and His will.**
 4. **Ills.: Video clip — Whom do you serve**

Risking Success

If a man is centered upon himself, the smallest risk is too great for him, because both success and failure can destroy him. If he is centered upon God, then no risk is too great, because success is already guaranteed--the successful union of creator and creature, beside which everything else is meaningless. **Morris L. West in The Shoes of the Fisherman. Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 3.**

Sometimes you have to rock the boat

My friend Mike and I went out for an afternoon on the lake, a chance to talk a little and baptize some new fishing lures. We spent several hours fishing, with no luck, when we decided to head back before it got dark. After about half an hour, I heard the outboard motor sputter, then die. Mike went to check out the problem and determined that we were almost out of gas. There was a little, but it was too low to reach the fuel line. He came up with an idea. If I would stand in the middle of the boat, with one foot against both sides and rock back and forth, we might be able to get enough gas to slosh in the line to get the motor started. Once started, Mike figured if I kept rocking and he ran the engine slowly, we could get back to the ramp. Sure enough, after 15 minutes of my rocking the boat and Mike working the throttle, we returned safe and sound. That event taught me a valuable lesson: Sometimes you have to rock the boat if you want to make any progress. **Derrick Lewis, LaGrange, Georgia**

Word on Risk taking

A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for. —Philanthropist John Shedd (1850–1926)

Whom Do You Serve (video)

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵"To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷"In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸"But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰"The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'²¹"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²²"Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.'²³"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. ²⁵'And I was afraid, and went away and hid my talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'²⁶"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. ²⁷'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. ²⁸'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

²⁹"For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰"Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [NASB]