

**Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God**, Series by Marcia McFee  
**“Risking God”**

**Message by DD Adams**

Kempton Providence U.M. Church

February 10, 2019

The text for today is from Matthew’s gospel, chapter 25, verses 24 through 30. “Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

*So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”* This is God’s word for the people of God.

God we pray your blessing on your word. As we hear and understand plant the words deep in our hearts, let them be cultivated and nurtured by your Spirit. As we water, give the growth as you promised, and let much fruit abide. Amen.

God and us *together* are involved in taking a risk with each other. God keeps his promises, but we make many mistakes and can feel like a failure, but God sees us differently. God doesn't call us to success as the world sees success, he calls us to be faithful. God just keeps inviting humanity to join with him to co-create a better world, and we do that by using our talents—our monetary gifts and skills.

To co-create with God and use our talents, we have to initiate the process and take a leap of faith—by giving things a try—trusting ourselves and God. Whatever talents God gives us, we need to break through the fear factor, get started, and create a change in our hearts as we join with God.

Think of the talents God has given humanity. Now imagine what might happen as God pours down grace! Amazing things! But if we clutch too tightly and perceive God's grace as scarce, that's exactly what we'll see—scarcity. But, if we see through the lens of grace as Christ followers, we'll see an abundance of plenty.

People live in fear and that blocks their creativity to use what God has given them for the good. But flip that gloom and doom mind-set of scarcity, and you're invited to see, feel, and experience an abundance of plenty—always having more than enough—pouring over the edge of your cup and into and on others.

If you've never used your talents, it *can* feel risky, because we're stepping out into the unknown. We're afraid we'll fail or look stupid. Maybe we're lazy, perhaps we say “been there done that.” Whatever your stance—listen to this stance

*from God.* In this story, people did different things with their “talents”. The ones who took risks and utilized their talents multiplied their gift in the world.

Everyone has talents given to them by God. Question is, do you see yourself as the owner or the steward of the talents you’ve been given? Many people will give their time, but even fewer will give what God encourages to give when the talents are defined as money \$\$\$\$. With money in mind, do you know how many times Jesus talks about money in the Bible? 800 hundred times.

Jesus talks a lot about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables are concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the gospels, one out of ten verses, 288 in all, deal directly with money. Hearing this, we know that Jesus cares a lot about His money. So if we might be called faithful, we need to give all we can and be accountable for our stewardship.

Interestingly enough, Jesus tells this parable after he teaches about his second coming. Jesus says no one knows the day or the hour that he’s coming back. So someone who believes they’re a follower of Christ must be using and giving their talents as if Jesus is coming back today!

In the parable, the master trusted each servant “according to his ability.” The one who was afraid buried what his master trusted him with, and then scolded and rebuked him. To the two who invested what they’d been given, they received a favorable reply from their master.

What are your expectations for your finances? What skills do you have to share with us? The only answer is to trust God and use your skills and money to give more, and see how God pours down his grace on you. God's view of your life is this. If you know Christ, you have an abundance of plenty. Can we see ourselves the way God sees us?

What's the "so what" of this message? Perhaps the ones afraid to give talents have buried them. Fear has gotten the best of you or you're too busy making excuses. A question to ask yourself is this. How do I see my heavenly Father? .... The fearful servant saw his master as a hard man and impossible to please, and it kept him from taking any action.

The Bible tells us that our lives are not ours to live according to our wishes. We owe our lives and wealth to God! As Christ followers, we're waiting for the second coming of Christ to earth. So, we should be like the two stewards that we read about—faithfully using and giving our Master's monies while we're waiting for Christ's return.

The two servants that used their talents wisely were both praised. Both were given different amounts, but they used their talents wisely and made a profit. All the third servant did was tremble and bury his money. God encourages us to give our talents. To stop making excuses for giving little or nothing all and to turn our faith into deeds of giving that make the world a better place.

The book of Malachi, the last book of the O.T. says this. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

We need to see our lives as God does; which is a life filled with so much grace that it literally pours down onto you and in you. Who will you trust, yourself or God? What can you do to risk what God has given you to expand love and grace in the world?