

Congregational Sunday Fall 2025: Our Holy Moment, Matthew 25, 11/30/2025

Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 25. Last week, we were light on front office help so we were taking shifts for front door and phone coverage, and it was my turn. One of our members called and said they needed help with changing the banking info for their contributions. And the member said, “it’s for the MOVE ON thing”...I was thinking... “Move on?” and then I thought and said, “Oh you mean our ON THE MOVE Campaign for our building project.” “Yes, that’s it.” And I said, “Well maybe you’re ready to move on, but we really haven’t even started yet.” And we both got a chuckle out of that.

But it did remind me of a widely recognized leadership principle, Vision leaks. We are bombarded by messaging all day long, we have a hard time remembering what the sermon was about last week let alone a year ago. Not to mention that about 20% of you are new since we launched ON THE MOVE. That’s why at least 2x a year we pause our sermon series and clarify our vision and get updates from our ministry leaders. So let me remind us all, preferably before we move on, that last fall we launched our ON THE MOVE vision that set a course for where we are headed over the next three years.

So, let’s revisit the parable of Jesus that set that tone for our ON THE MOVE Vision. If you are new to parables in the Bible, a parable is when Jesus uses something ordinary to explain something spiritual and eternal. Let’s read the introduction to the story and then we will pause.

Matthew 25:14-15 *14 “Again, it [The kingdom of Heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.*

15 To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

The opportunity in front of these servants is what I like to call a holy moment. They are fork in the road, sink or swim, move forward or shrink back, courage or timidity opportunities presented by God in our lives.

Let me paint the picture with one of my favorite scenes from the **Matrix [Picture]**. Neo sits across from Morpheus, and everything in his life has led to this moment. Morpheus opens his hands and offers him a choice: the blue pill or the red pill. The blue pill means safety, familiarity, the illusion of comfort. The red pill means waking up to reality, stepping into a dangerous mission that will change everything. Neo hesitates. He’s afraid. He doesn’t know what’s on the other side. But then he reaches out and chooses the red pill—and his whole life is transformed. That’s a “Hollywood” holy moment.

And in the same way, God gives every follower of Jesus holy moments like that—minus the cool glasses and pills—where we must choose between faith or fear. It’s those burning bush, walk on water, take-up-your-cross moments.

We've all had moments like this, if you are a Christian, the moment you trusted Jesus for the first time was a holy moment. But holy moments don't stop there.

Maybe it was the moment you sensed God calling you to step into a ministry opportunity or leadership role you didn't feel qualified for... and the question was, "Do I stay comfortable or step into calling?"

Maybe it was the moment you saw someone in crisis, pain, or need, and the Holy Spirit whispered, "Do something." Step in. Be present. Love sacrificially. Risk awkwardness, inconvenience, or rejection.

Maybe it was when God began stirring your heart to be radically generous in a way that made no financial sense on paper... and you had to decide whether you would cling to control or walk in faith.

Or a strong conviction that it's time to confront the destructive habit in your life. That's a holy moment.

And we have a choice: to be fully surrendered to Him and take the courageous risk of walking by faith and experience the leaps in our spiritual life and reward, or to shrink back into the perceived safety of self-protection and status quo.

This is what Jesus' Parable of the Talents is all about in Matthew 25. Three servants face their own holy moment of opportunity presented by their Master. The stakes are high, the decision is critical. Will they take a risk or will they shrink back? And what we will find is that Jesus is speaking through this parable to each one of us here asking us the very same question. Let's get reacquainted with this parable and then reflect our own holy moment as a church. **three scenes: The Master's Invitation, The Servants' Response, The Master's Return.**

#1 The Master's Invitation:

14 *"Again, it [The kingdom of Heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.*

15 *To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.* A talent was an enormous amount of money—about 75 pounds of gold, in today's terms about 2M, so the master leaves these 3 servants with a collective 16M of his estate. Now this wasn't like hitting the lottery. Look at the word "entrust." This is stewardship not windfall. He gives these servants these massive resources, each according to their ability, with the goal of expanding the master's estate while he's away. It's going to take skill, time and courage. This was risky.

Let's look at **#2 the Servants' Response.**

16 *The man who had received five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five talents more.*

17 So also, the one with two talents gained two more. Two of the servants faced their holy moment with faith. I love those words: “went at once.” No procrastinating, no excuses—just obedience. But the third servant? **V.18 He dug a hole and buried his talent.** Why? Fear and indifference. He didn’t trust his master and he chose comfort over calling.

#3 The Master’s Return

v.19 After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

The two of the servants who grabbed their holy moment by the horns and went for it, bring their talents and the double return on the investment back to the Master, to which the Master replies ²¹ **‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’**

What was their reward? An **invitation into the great joy of purpose-filled, enduring impact!** Can I just tell you, the most lasting and satisfying joy I’ve experienced is not chillaxing on a beach in the Caribbean...that’s happiness for a week tops. It’s when I know I’m in the center of God’s will and making a difference for the kingdom, even when it’s hard and daunting and at times painful. That’s the joy of the Lord, I sense his presence and pleasure. And that’s just a foretaste of what it will be like for eternity. That’s the reward for these two servants.

What about the third servant who buried it? Well we don’t have time to unpack verses 26-30, but suffice to say he misses out. He got his reward of comfort and safety while the master was away, now he suffers enduring loss away from the master.

What is Jesus saying to us through this parable? He’s telling us something critical about who God is and the kind of faith God rewards. He is a rewarder of those who face the unknowns, the risks, the challenges, who say no to the easy comfortable life, and invest their time, talents and treasures for his mission.

You know, our church leadership faced our holy moment in 2021, when we became debt-free as a church, which seemed at the time like a miracle considering the hole we climbed out of. And everything was going well, we kind of all breathed a big sigh of relief. And that was a great moment of celebration, and we did, with thanksgiving to the Lord. But we sensed as a leadership team, God did not bring us to this moment to sit back and take it easy, and just put the church on cruise control. God was bringing us to a new holy moment, a fork in the road of what kind of impact for the kingdom that we want to make as a church. Will we be the cruise control church or do we want to really step into his calling for us, into a 5 talent investment that he’s asking us to make. We knew going for it would be risky, hard, expensive, it would take a lot of time, talent and treasure. But once we caught the vision for it, we knew we couldn’t go back.

Last year, we rolled out our **ON THE MOVE** Vision he has given us. It’s a vision that will require sacrifice, our time, our skills, our influence, and our financial resources. If you are new since November last year I want to encourage you to visit **brandywine.church/onthemove**. 3 Aspects of the Vision

BUILDING OUR FAITH: The Invitation of our Master Jesus is to make a **spiritual investment** in making resilient disciples. Since then we've:

- Launched Men's Ministry,
- Restructured Christian Education for Biblical Worldview formation,
- Prepared to launch Life Groups in January with a Resilient Discipleship track,
- Continued investing in next generation ministry. You will hear from our Next Gen staff—Matthew and Kristi today—and a particularly a discipleship opportunity and critical need for more of us to invest in BrandywineKids.

REACHING OUR COMMUNITY: The Invitation of our Master Jesus is to make a **missional investment** in our neighbors for the sake of the gospel.

- We are continuing to reach deeper into the community with the gospel through our gospel partners, such as Urban Promise, Sunday Breakfast Mission, A Door of Hope, Foster Well and several more.
- This year we hired Megan Price as our Go Director who is making great strides mobilizing our congregation to reach and serve our community.
- Go Week saw our greatest participation to date last spring and we are looking forward to going even further next year.
- We want to challenge you personally to be spiritually investing in and inviting your friends, neighbors, coworkers to church...we've made room for them going to 3 services!

SHAPING OUR FUTURE: The Invitation of our Master Jesus is to make a **FINANCIAL INVESTMENT** in the renovation of our facilities for generations to come.

Just a few highlights:

- Expand BrandywineKids space in a safe, secure way,
- Double our entry level community space,
- Bring the coffee bar upstairs,
- Other much needed renovations to old carpets, walls, bathrooms and under-utilized spaces that will create a more welcoming, useful building all week long.

Pastor Todd will update us in a few minutes, but what has been so encouraging and confirming to us, is that you church, have stepped up to this holy moment in ways that have inspired me. I'm grateful to lead and be led by you.

One day, our Master Jesus will return. I long to hear those words.

²¹ *'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*