



A GOD-LIVED LIFE

- A Life of Being a Disciple
- A Life Lived for Others
- A Life of Hospitality
- *A Life Lived Shrewdly*

MONTH 4

A Life Lived Shrewdly

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose.

WEEK 16

Each week in our God-Lived Life Challenge, we'll have a midweek devotion to remind us what it's all about—why we do what we do. This week, we see that a God-lived life is good for us and makes God happy too!!

A GOD-LIVED LIFE IS GOOD FOR US AND MAKES GOD HAPPY!

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Matthew 25:23

Jesus told the parable of the master who gave his three servants gold in large, yet differing amounts: five bags to the first, two to the second, one to the third—and then went away for a time. When the master returned, the servant with five bags had put the money to work and earned five more. The one with two earned two more. But the one who was given one bag hid it in the ground, then handed it back. The two who had put the gold to work were told the words we hear today. The third, who did nothing, was rebuked.

Here's the lesson: it brings joy to the master when his servants are faithful workers. The master gives different gifts and responsibilities according to his wisdom and the ability of the servant. But he assigns work for each one. Even the one with the least number of gifts still has work to do.

The message is clear: God has given us differing amounts of gifts, abilities, and gold. Our task is not to focus on what the next person has or to be paralyzed with uncertainty or fear of the master. Our goal is to be wise in the way we use the gold God has given. We are to put it to work in his kingdom to do the good he intends with it.

God's greatest pleasure is your faithfulness with his gifts. He loves when you grow in ability, understanding, and responsibility. He is pleased to give more as you serve him. Sometimes we act like the servant with one bag of gold, fearful and uncertain so we don't use it or hoard it for ourselves. God forgive us for Jesus' sake! And God does that because of Jesus' cross and empty tomb.

Jesus, the perfect servant and substitute, points us to the examples of the two servants and declares, "Live in my grace and forgiveness." Put the bags of gold he's given you to work in his kingdom and faithfully labor for him. Whether two or five bags are gained, the Lord says, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" We'll have eternity to thank him for making us a part of his great kingdom and its work, to talk about all he brought us through and how he grew us.

Faithful management of his gifts is good for us and makes God happy. God bless your life as you live for him!