

VALUE & INVESTMENT IN GOD'S ECONOMY

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“ . . .you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.”
(Matthew 25:27)

Is God's economy like our economy? One of the paradoxes of Christianity is that we know that we can do nothing to deserve God's infinite mercy, a treasure of immense value which is freely given. And yet we also believe that God requires something of us.

The Parable of the Talents helps us to understand our responsibility in responding to God's grace and provision. It gives a picture of a heavenly economy which is very much like our economy, where God's investment of great value in us can produce much or be squandered.

What comes of the investment, it seems in the parable, depends on the attitude of the servant rather than on the economic forces of the day. Does the servant believe that the master is good? Does the servant trust the master? Is the servant willing to take a risk on behalf of the master? Whose talent is it anyway?

“Invest!”, this parable shouts at us. Do not squander the love, faith, time, hope, money, resources, talent, creativity, and truth God has given you! Invest, even though the world is an uncertain and difficult place. Invest, even in the face of failure. Invest God's gifts because they are meant to be used and not to become stagnant. The outcome or the return on the investment is not up to us, nor is it ours. God does not count the return on investment in the same way we do. After all, we also know that the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

So determine what is of value in you and of you, and invest it in God's work. Do not fret over the cost or the return, leave the counting to God. Trust not in your reward, but in God's mercy. For no amount of investing can purchase God's mercy, which is equally available to the dutiful saint and to the sinful swindler who repents.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What value is in you? What do you have of value? Thank God!

What makes it hard to invest? Confess to God!

How might God be calling you to invest your talents? Ask God!

PRAYER:

Compose a prayer which incorporates your responses to the questions above. Commit to praying it regularly over the next month.

