BACK IN THE BLACK: BE A PART OF THE STORY

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**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you remember most from this week’s message?
2. Joe says we can each live a “fully funded life” and do exactly what God put us on earth to do if we learn to follow God’s word in managing everything God has provided. How have you seen this truth in your own life?
3. We each have to deal with money, even if it stresses or intimidates us. How has handling money caused stress in your life?
4. Read **Matthew 25:14-30**. Jesus tells a story of three servants –each given a number of ‘talents’ by the master. One source says a ‘talent’ was the equivalent of 20 years of earnings so this is a lot. Who did the talents belong to? Why were they given to the servants?
5. According to **Matthew 25:14,15** what determined how much each servant was given?
6. Read **Proverbs 15:22.** How can you learn to succeed in handling what God’s given you so you can be trusted with more? What are some opportunities you have to get advice?
7. Read **Matthew 25:16-18**. In the past year how have you managed what God gave you? Did you give first and then wisely use the rest? How do you want your answer to be different a year from now?
8. Application: What’s your assignment?
   1. In **Matthew 25:19-23** we see 3 categories of people--#1: those who managed well; #2: those who managed poorly; #3: those who didn’t have anything to manage because they spent it all on themselves. Prayerfully determine which category you are in
   2. If you’re in the 1st category—thank God and share what you’ve learned with someone else this week. If you’re in category 2 or 3—think of one thing you can do this week to move toward category 1 (record your spending, start working on a budget, make plans to attend a class) and ask your group to hold you accountable.
9. Challenge: God has provided everything necessary for you to accomplish what He’s called you to do. Resolve to trust Jesus to free you to serve Him in every way.

**Prayer Thought:** Jesus, thank you that you have trusted me with the means to invest in your work here on earth. Show me the next step you want me to take to become a “5 talent investor” and give me the faith to obey and take that step.