

SCARED SPITLESS

ESCAPING THE GRIP OF
PARALYZING FEAR

Part 4: The Fear of Loss

Pastor Grant Fishbook
October 4 & 5, 2008

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.

¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "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!'

²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "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!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Paralyzing Fear of "Mr. Safe"

The Fear of Man (vs. 24a) – What will my boss think if...?

The Fear of Now (vs. 24b) – What if my boss is hard on me?

The Fear of Failure (vs. 25) – What if I make a mistake?

The Fear of Loss (vs. 28) – What if I lose it all?

God has called us to plant his gift – not bury it.

(Continues on back)

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

The Fears that Sidetrack Obedience

The Fear of Man – What will people think if I am "washed?"

The Fear of Now – What if I'm not good enough?

The Fear of Failure – What if I mess up in the future?

The Fear of Loss – What will I have to give up?

Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The Fears that Sidetrack Salvation

The Fear of Man – What will people think if I "get religion?"

The Fear of Now – What if I am too broken for God?

The Fear of Failure – What if I can't do it?

The Fear of Loss – What will I have to give up?

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? – *Mark 8:36*

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. – *Jim Elliot*

Next Steps

- Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior today
- Be baptized next weekend out of obedience
- Register for the Alpha Course, starting Monday, October 6
- Attend the Fear and Anxiety Workshop on Saturday, October 18

On your way home:

Have you ever lost something valuable? Why do you think it still bugs you that you never found it again?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) How do you react when you lose something? What does your response tell us about you as a person?
- 2) Read the story from Matthew 25 again. What is God telling you right now about your fear and your stewardship of his gift?
- 3) Which of the four fears is the most prevalent in your life?
- 4) Of the three servants in the story, which one's strategy would be the closest to your personal approach? Why?
- 5) Have you crossed the line of biblical obedience by being baptized? If your answer is no, what's holding you back?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?