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# GIVING ACCOUNT FOR LIFE'S INVESTMENT





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**Text:** Matthew 25:14-30

## **Introduction:**

A rich man was preparing to leave on a long trip, so he called in three of his employees and gave to each one a large sum of money. To the first one he gave \$500,000. To the second he presented \$200,000. And to the third he handed over \$100,000. The money was not a bonus or gift; it was a trust—an amount given to each employee to invest as wisely as possible. It was left to each one to make the most out of what he received. Upon returning from his trip, the rich man would take account of what each man had done with his money.

The first employee went to work at once, putting the \$500,000 into various profit-making ventures. The second employee took his \$200,000 and did likewise, choosing smart investments. The third employee, however, took the \$100,000 he had been given and drove it into the ground—literally. He went out to the back yard, dug a hole and buried all the money!

Employee #1 was quite successful in his efforts, doubling the \$500,000 to a sum of \$1,000,000.

Employee #2 was equally adept with his investments, turning the \$200,000 into \$400,000.

But Employee #3, who had started out with less in the first place, still had the same \$100,000 “safely” buried in the ground.

The rich man returned and eagerly called in the three employees to whom he had entrusted his money. Employee #1 gave his report first, and the rich man was understandably enthused. “I’m giving you Dig promotion and a big raise,” he said. Employee #2 then presented his account, and once again the rich man reacted gleefully. “You have proven yourself. You’re getting a promotion and a raise, too!” Then Employee #3 came in to deliver his report. “Sir” he began, “I know what a tough businessman you are, so I was afraid to risk any of your money. I buried it for safekeeping, and now I’m pleased to return it to you” The rich man was furious. “You lazy bum! The least you could have done was put it in the bank and earn me some interest. So, you think I’m a tough businessman? You’re right. and you’re fired!” Employee #3 was then thrown out of the building, and the rich man took the \$100,000 that had been buried and gave it as a bonus to Employee #1.

This is a modern-day version of a story Jesus told 20 centuries ago. The main point, which hasn’t changed in 2,000 years, is that each one of us is responsible to make the most of what we’ve been given. And we are more than responsible; we’re accountable. We must answer for the way we invest our lives.



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## 1. We are Accountable to God.

- This is the essential point of Romans 14:12—we must each give an account directly to God!
- We will one day face the One who spoke the worlds into existence, the One to whom we owe life itself.
- Could there be a greater motivation to live the right life, think the right thoughts, speak the right words, and do the right things?
- God Himself will determine whether we have been good managers of everything He has put in our care.
- We are required to be faithful stewards. (1 Corin. 4:2)

## 2. We are Accountable to Others.

- We don't exist in a self-sufficient, isolated world.
- We belong to a great, global family, and our success depends upon how we relate to others in that family.
- To our parents we owe honor. (Exodus 20:12 is a command without a time limit.)
- To our spiritual leaders we owe submission; for just as you are accountable to them, they are accountable for you. (Heb. 13:7)
- To everyone we owe love. According to Romans 13.8, we are in debt to others and the only way to pay the bill is by showing genuine Christian love.

## 3. We are Accountable for Our Words.

- What you say is important to God.
- What you say is also important to others, and they will hold you to your words.
- A promise is meant to be kept, because if you break a promise, you can break a heart.
- A commitment is meant to be fulfilled, because if you fail on a commitment, you can fracture a friendship.
- Guard your words; they have great value and great power

## 4. We are Accountable for Our Actions.

- Everything you do in relating to other people is an opportunity to express an attitude.
- It's up to you to be kind or unkind, to be caring or insensitive, to be positive or negative.
- You can live by the Golden Rule, or by your own rule.

## 5. We are Accountable for Our Opportunities.

- Every day brings new opportunities to influence others in word and deed.
- William Barclay: "In the time we have it is surely our duty to do all the good we can to all the people we can in all the ways we can".
- This is especially true of your relationship to people who are less fortunate.



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Accountability is a key element of a successful life. It is your “track record”, the pattern of discipline and dependability that will become your reputation. To be accountable is to be someone others can count on, but you must be willing to be vulnerable. Accountability in human relationships demands a willingness to be honest, and being honest makes you vulnerable. It can be risky, but it’s worth it because the strongest relationships are formed through honest communication.

