

**Matthew - "Why Jesus?"**

***In the Kingdom  
faithfulness trumps  
success***

---

**Matthew - "Why Jesus?"**

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14 – Faithfulness trumps success

Backdrop

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14 – Faithfulness trumps success

The NT presents a paradox on the coming of the Kingdom of God:

- 1)The Kingdom HAS COME in Jesus and yet it is still IN THE FUTURE
  - 2)The Gospels also announce the Kingdom is NEAR and yet FAR OFF
  - 3)And still Jesus’ followers will NEVER KNOW THE TIMING of the Kingdom come and yet HERE ARE THE SIGNS
-

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14 – Faithfulness trumps success

Think of the indictments of chapters 23-24 against the scribes & Pharisees:

- *They were handed the Torah of Moses*
  - *They were handed the Temple where Heaven meets earth*
  - *They were handed the call of God as Israelites to reach the world as light for God*
- 

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 1 – Everything we have is a massive gift from God

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 1 – Everything we have is a massive gift from God

They could have said:

- *I burned the candle at both ends for you*
  - *I did all the right things*
  - *I was successful*
- 

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:19-20a – Faithfulness trumps success

“You delivered to me”

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:19-20a – Faithfulness trumps success

“You delivered to me”

Luke’s version = “Your pound has produced 10 pounds.”

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:21 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 2 – The reward is mutual trust

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:21 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 2 – The reward is mutual trust

It doesn't feel like pressure because ultimately they know 2 things:

- *They have faith the Master will return victorious with Power & Authority as THEIR rightful King*
  - *The Master's gifts will produce the results*
- 

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:21 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 2 – The reward is mutual trust

I Cor. 3:6-8 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor (NOT WHAT HE PRODUCES). For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

---

## **Matthew – “Why Jesus?”**

Matthew 25:21 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 3 – They are commended for being faithful, not successful

---

## **Matthew – “Why Jesus?”**

Matthew 25:24-29 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 3 – They are commended for being faithful, not successful

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:24-29 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 3 – They are commended for being faithful, not successful

### **Babylonian Talmud:**

*“A harp was hanging above David's bed. As soon as midnight arrived, a north wind came and blew upon it and it played itself. He arose immediately and studied the Torah until the break of dawn. After the break of dawn the wise men of Israel came in to see him and said to him: Our Lord, the King, Israel your people require sustenance! David said to them: Let them go out and make a living one from another. They said to him: A handful cannot satisfy a lion, nor can a pit be filled up with its own clods. David said to them: Then go out in troops and attack the enemy for plunder.”*

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:24 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 3 – They are commended for being faithful, not successful

---



## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:24 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 3 – They are commended for being faithful, not successful

*Psalm 18:25-26 With the kind You show Yourself kind; With the blameless You show Yourself blameless; With the pure You show Yourself pure, And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.*

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 4 – What we assume about God drives our life

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 4 – What we assume about God drives our life

*Matt. 20:28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

---

## Matthew – “Why Jesus?”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Faithfulness trumps success

Key # 4 – What we assume about God drives our life

*Matt. 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

---