

CHANGE YOUR STORY

Discussion Notes

TEAM ONE-TALENT

Read through Matthew 25:14-30 together, it might be worth reading this in the NIV and the Message version to get a rounded picture of the story.

Philip explained how often we can feel like we are the guy with the one talent - the 'C Team' of Christians compared to people around us. In fact, he described Metro as 'Team One-Talent'!

- Do you ever feel like you are on the 'one-talent' team?
- Do you compare yourself to other Christians? What does that look like? Why is that a negative thing?
- Do you agree that Metro is 'Team One-Talent'?

Philip explained that if we are a 'one-talent' person, it isn't your ability that determines the outcome of your life, it is the story you tell yourself. The story the servant told himself was of a **mean** boss and a **maintenance** view of his responsibilities.

The servant said of his master, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed". The servant had a mean view of his master, and likewise we can have a mean view of God.

- In what ways in life can you have a mean view of God? Have you ever caught yourself with this mindset like the servant has? What does it look like?
- What makes us have this mindset of a mean master?
- How does this affect our story?
- And what can we do to change that, to see God for the kind and generous master He actually is?

Philip explained that the servant also had a maintenance view of himself, "So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." A maintenance view of faith means that we keep it to ourselves, we bury what we have and just hope to maintain it. Faith stays with us and doesn't actually affect our life.

- What might this maintenance view of our faith look like?
- What affect might it have on our lives?
- What can we do to change that?

The other servants really understood the true story. They said to the master "you trusted me"! They knew they weren't just trusted with something small but with huge wealth. One talent is around 20 years worth of wages, or half a million in today's money. So the servant with 5 talents was trusted with 100 years wages' worth of money! The other

two servants understood that the master was generous and had really trusted them and so they multiplied that which they had been given.

- How in our lives do we see that God is generous like then master in the story, not mean like the one-talent servant believed?
- How should that change how we act?

Philip suggested 5 areas that we need to understand we have been trusted with great wealth and live accordingly:

1. Money - we have great wealth to give and have been given so much by God, How do we change our actions to reflect the generosity of God? Do we use this money well? Are we giving generously to the work of the church?
2. Work - we have been entrusted with a workplace. What does it look like for us to use this opportunity? What does it look like to bury our talent in the workplace?
3. Church - how do we use what God has given us as Metro? How can you have a multiplication mindset when it comes to church? Are you on a serving team and, if not, why not?
4. Friends - sharing our faith with a friend can just look like inviting them to a Metro event. Philip suggested inviting someone to the Carol Service as soon as you hear them talking about Christmas. Is this something that you could do?
5. Prayer - this is the single most powerful thing in the universe, do we treat it as such? How do we bury the talent of prayer? Have you been to Metro Prayer on a Saturday afternoon yet and, if not, what stops you?