

Follow Me Part 6—Manager, Not Owner

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

TFH DISCIPLESHIP PATH

1. MAKE A DECISION

- Salvation
- Rededication
- Commitment to follow Jesus

2. CONNECT

- Meet our team
- Get on a growth track
- Start building some relationships

3. FIRST STEPS

- Water Baptism
- DISCOVER CLASS
- Become a member
- Get on the Dream Team (start serving)

4. NEXT STEPS

- Get connected in a small group
- Go through our ENCOUNTER RETREAT (find freedom)
- Celebrate Recovery (if applicable)
- FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (if needed)
- Specialty small groups - ongoing freedom and growth
- Attend pursuit night

5. LIFELONG DISCIPLSHIP STEPS

- TFH LEADERSHIP COLLEGE
- TFH School of Ministry
- Become one of the '1,000 Intercessors'
- Short-term missions trips (post-COVID)
- Prepare to lead a small group
- Accredited studies through PORTLAND BIBLE COLLEGE
- Lead a ministry

1. Make a Decision

2. Connect with our Team

3. FIRST STEPS

4. NEXT STEPS

5. LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP STEPS

(Go to TFH-APP)

God has invested some things in you; you are worth more than you know!

“Well done my good and faithful servant.... enter into the joy set before you.” (Matthew 25)—JESUS

Servant / Greek =

- One who is devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests
- One who gives himself up to another's will
- One who manages the affairs of the master

A true disciple sees himself not as an owner, but as a manager.

[Mark 8:34-35, TPT]

Jesus summoned the crowd, along with his disciples, and had them gather around. And he said to them: “If you truly want to follow me, **you should at once completely disown your own life.** And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways. ³⁵ For if you let your life go for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, you will continually experience true life.

A lot of people want the biblical results of a true disciple, but without following the biblical mandates.

“If you are thinking about following me, then consider any spare time you may want to give up and make some minor adjustments in order to accommodate a faith that will help you improve your life, but only if it’s convenient and doesn’t change your personal goals or upset your current lifestyle.”

Mark 8:34 – “Casual Christian Translation”

[Mark 8:36]

But if you choose to keep your life for yourself, you will forfeit what you try to keep. ³⁶ For what use is it to gain all the wealth and power of this world, with everything it could offer you, at the cost of your own life?

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

– C.S. Lewis

[Matthew 25:14-30, NLT]

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver^[a] to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why

didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

²⁸ "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ **To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance.** But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Your heavenly father knows you, and He knows what He's put in your hands.

1. YOU'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED / HOW ARE YOU INVESTING?

[1 Corinthians 6:18-20, NLT]

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? **You do not belong to yourself,**

[verse 20, AMP]

You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor **and** glorify God with your body.

You have to plant the seed, not hold onto it. Otherwise, it will never grow or multiply; get it out of your hands!

[Proverbs 3:9-10, AMP]

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits (the very best) of all your crops (income); Then your barns will be abundantly filled, and your vats

will overflow with new wine. (every dimension of your life will overflow with blessings)

If you dig up a hole and put inside what God has invested in you, you usually fall into that hole.

2. THE MASTER IS RETURNING / IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED TO DIG UP NOW?

[2 Corinthians 5:10, AMP]

For we [believers will be called to account and] **must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may be repaid for what has been done in the body, whether good or bad [that is, each will be held responsible for his actions, purposes, goals, motives—the use or misuse of his time, opportunities and abilities].

FOR MONDAY—

1. Identify who you are in The Parable of the Talents, and invite The Holy Spirit to speak fresh perspective to your practical living.
2. Step up your stewardship: invest your time, talent, or treasure into the Kingdom of God at greater capacity and obedience.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some things that you know have been entrusted to you? What has it looked like to manage or steward them?
2. Where are you at in the path of discipleship, and what is your next step as a disciple?
3. How do the perspectives of an owner and a manager differ? How have you seen that lived out in your circles?

4. Why do you think so many people strive to be something they were never meant to be? For what reasons do we hold onto unsubmitted goals, plans, or relationships? (Consider Matthew 8:36)
5. In the Parable of the Talents, what do we see about the character of the Master? How does that compare to the character of the three servants?
6. How are you investing what you've been given to steward?
7. When it comes to your life, is there anything that you have "on the shelf?" What could it look like to take that back up and use it for the Kingdom of God?
8. What excites you about the Master returning? What does the Bible say He is coming back for?