

October 12, 2022

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells us the Parable of the Talents. The cliff notes version goes like this: A master gives three of his servants various sums of money. Two of the servants put their money to work and double their sum. The third servant buries his money in the ground. The master is overjoyed at the faithfulness of the first two servants, but is less than pleased with the third servant for wasting the opportunity to put his money to good use.

Candidly, I often feel like the third servant. Afraid of losing what I have. Not wanting to risk it. Being too bottom-lined with my family budget. After all, I may need that money for a rainy day, right? Each person in the kingdom of heaven is given a certain number of gifts and opportunities to serve God. We can either waste those opportunities or invest them in a way that furthers His kingdom.

The good news is that the ministries of Mandarin Presbyterian Church have continued to thrive with the help of your generous giving this past year. During recent worship services, we heard from one of our international missionaries as well as Thornwell Children's Home. Later this year, we'll introduce Ministry Minute videos, in which we highlight organizations that benefit from MPC facilities and financial support. We hope this will help paint a picture of ways your giving has impacted those in our local Northeast Florida community as well as internationally.

As we enter the stewardship season, let's reflect on how God has blessed MPC so richly. Through the season of COVID, two senior pastor transitions, and numerous staff moves, we discover that God had a plan for us all along. And through all these challenges, we've continued our mission of loving others to love Jesus Christ!

In November, MPC will hold its Stewardship Sunday. During that time, we'll prayerfully ask you to consider your 2023 financial giving. In the meantime, I simply encourage you to reflect on the ways God has blessed you and MPC this past year. God is indeed faithful!

In Christ,

Matt Balanky – Stewardship Committee