

# INVEST in the KINGDOM

MT 25:14-30

## I. MONEY MATTERS

- A. Jesus regularly stressed its import—“where your treasure is, there will your heart be also;” ‘talent’ weight, ca 1200 ounces
- B. Various approaches (cf. Aristotle’s *Ethics*)
  - 1. Spendthrifts: Thomas Jefferson; lottery winners’ histories
  - 2. Misers: Ebenezer Scrooge in Dickens’ story; J. Paul Getty
  - 3. Investors: wisely generous; Warren Buffet, Dave Ramsey
- C. N.T. perspectives
  - 1. Jesus’ followers: wealthy women (Martha & Mary, Mark’s mother); tax gatherers (Matthew, Zacchaeus); Sanhedrin members (Nicodemus; Joseph of Arimathea); provided money needed by apostolic band
  - 2. Paul’s supporters (Priscella & Aquila; Lydia) provide employment & offerings
- D. Ancient Church—Constantine & Helena
- E. Medieval Church
  - 1. Charlemagne’s import—school of the palace & use of clerics
  - 2. Kings (e.g. Alfred the Great & Louis IX)
  - 2. Cathedrals (e.g. Chartres) & universities (e.g. Oxford) require funding
- F. Modern era
  - 1. American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions—600 missionaries around the world (e.g. Hawaii).
  - 2. R.G. LeTourneau & evangelical ministries
  - 3. Current illustrations—Heart-to-Heart International; support for John Lennox

## II. TALENTS’ TALLY

- A. Luther & Protestant tradition of “calling”—Vocations of various sorts
- B. Generally in accord with natural endowments
  - 1. Athletic—Fernando Mendoso
  - 2. Mathematical—Pascal; *Five Equations that Changed the World* by Michael Guillen
  - 3. Musical—Bach & many childhood marvels
  - 4. Parental—prime vocation for millions
- C. Investments
  - 1. Personal perspectives re teaching
  - 2. Historical illustrations
    - a. Preachers: John Chrysostom; Billy Graham
    - b. Musicians: Bach; Bill Gaither
    - c. Social goods: William Wilberforce; Abraham Lincoln