

BUSINESS FAITH GROUPS

Trust

Matthew 25:14-30

I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Matthew 25:14-30
- Discovery | Trusting God
- Business Application | Developing Trusting Relationships

II. REVIEW (30m)

- Personal Catchup
- Review last month's outcomes
- Open in Prayer

III. DISCOVERY

- Read Matthew 25:14-30 (shared reading)

Set up/ Do you have a life verse? Each share.

While the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins stresses the need to be prepared, the Parable of the Talents seems to emphasize stewardship and accountability to the Lord while we wait for His return. To me, waiting is not sitting idle but waiting is an action verb. He wants us to act and participate in what He has given us and align in what He is doing....

What jumps out at you?

- Give each an opportunity to share what they discovered as you keep it a conversation integrating your insights and their discoveries.

IV. AREA CHAIR INSIGHTS (30M)

1. He Trusts Me

I think is really interesting is that the master gave them portions of wealth, entrusting it to them according to their own ability, and then he told them exactly what to do with it, didn't he? No, he didn't.

I've never really thought about that before. He didn't give them money and then give them a checklist and a lengthy, "Do this, do that" with it, did he? No, he simply gave them the money, and then he got out of town.

Q- Why do you think it was?

I believe it's because he trusted that the servants knew him. That they knew his heart. And because of that foundation in their relationship, they would know what to do with what he gave them.

They knew how he operated in the world and that they would use the money accordingly to continue his good work. I don't know about you, but God doesn't always give me an explicit list of what He wants me to do with the resources He's entrusted me with. Sometimes God does say do this, but a lot of times, God entrusts us with everything then we have silence.

So what is interesting to me here is **HE TRUSTS ME. He trusts me with the resources, abilities but also He trusts me with who I am.**

Do you realize this? It's overwhelming to me.
This incredible God trusts me.

Funny but I spend the majority of my life learning to give away more of myself to him, wrestling with "Can I trust him" when He Trusts Me is the foundation of our relationship.

Q- Let me ask you something-- Who trusts Who more right now? Does God trust you more than you trust him currently?

2. Quickly

Another word I had never realized before in this story is **the first two went immediately after receiving the instruction.** When you obey and act quickly on what he is saying for you to do, He seems to connect you to purpose.

The generational opportunity in Act 8 Phillip & Eunich is a great example. The country of Ethiopia still today celebrates this story of freedom 2000 years ago. I've learned in my walk with Him that God does not work on a schedule and specifically my schedule. So once I sense the Holy Spirit saying something or for me to do something, I have to act on it or I will forget. Satan uses busyness & distraction to keep me off focus and doing kingdom work.

You may not realize this but you are someone's miracle!

Whether you are encouraging a neighbor who is seeking purpose, sharing your faith with a co- worker, or mustering the courage to challenge a friend there is a ton more happening spiritually than you realize. I believe God is aligning meetings, conversations, and acts of mercy that extend beyond the immediate that He has waiting for you if you just have the courage to get started on the prompting and do it immediately.

Act immediately before it is snatched away. You will hear Good & faithful servant.

3. Hiding

Let's talk about the one bag man. His perspective was very different. He heard the same mandate from his master but saw, heard & acted differently than the others. Do you ever wonder how that can happen?

The 1-Bag man saw his master as mean, not compassionate. That he broke rules and not ethical to get ahead. He was not full of grace & understanding. But hey look no further than raising your kids. It amazes me who retains what living under the same roof :)

This belief generated fear and fear moved him (behavior) to hide his bag. Hiding protects or builds sin, and send the message that I don't trust.

I find 2 things can happen when we do this;

- What I find are secrets sins that I hide often develop lives of their own
- controlling me often without realizing it. I find myself in places that aren't
- glorifying wondering how I got there.
- We switch to the control seat believing we know better. Hiding assets
- doesn't glorify him. Hiding assets screams that we don't trust him.

"I was afraid" was part of his response. **Fear makes us hide, be defensive, not act quickly, hesitate, not allow God to multiply.**

The 1-Bag man didn't know the master the way the others did. Our enemy tempts us to distrust God, doubt how He made us, and persuades us to try to fix ourselves or change our circumstances on our own. This impacts how we see ourselves but also our possessions.

If we sow lies, we reap a life full of death; we sow truth, we reap life (Gal 6:7).

Reflect on these responses the 1-Bag man might have had about God and self.

Lies about God	Lies about Yourself
God is distant	I don't measure up
God is unapproachable	I am on my own
God is difficult to please	I am not good enough
God doesn't hear or see me	I am stupid
God is not dependable	I am not understood
God is disappointed in me	I am what I do
God doesn't care how I feel	I am afraid
God treats others better than me	I can't get it right

Q- Which of these do you have about God and yourself today?

Q- Has fear ever prevented you from not doing his will? Not using his resources and not multiplying his kingdom purposes?

I have to remind myself that my abilities, wealth, resources, relationships are not mine to hide. The bag was a gift that God trusted me with so it is NOT mine to HIDE.

He wants increase not procrastination.

V. WRAP

So Who are you in this story?

Who needs to hear that God trusts you? Can you view your life today that you have given me much and I want to honor you, respect you by behaving, thinking, act in a way that glorifies you?

Who needs to act once they know God is prompting you to act? Notice the Master doesn't say well put, well prayed, or well said, no he says "well done". We must act for the Kingdom. The reward will go to those who have been faithful with what they have been given.

Who needs to see God differently and believing Lies? Move from fear to forgiveness. Move from closed to transparent.
Well Done good and faithful servant.

Share and encourage each other after reflection.

BUSINESS APPLICATION

I. SESSION OVERVIEW

- Business Application | Developing Mutual Trusting Relationships
- Tool
- Outcome/ Grows one's influence when trust is established

II. CONTEXT

God trusts us with His business for you to manage. When you sell it, He trusts you to lead his money. But there was one man who didn't know his master and thus didn't trust him.

What did the 1-Bag man do or not do to conclude that his master wasn't worth trusting?

I have found that trust is the foundation of any high performing team and relational equity where every voice is heard, appreciated, and valued is key to building this trust.

Let's breakdown how to form trusting relationships—your team, vendors, customers, community, family and the ultimate—intimacy with Jesus Christ.

III. TOOL/

What enables certain individuals to have significant influence in the lives of others, while others always seem to be limited in their ability to influence? This diagram provides a valuable framework for understanding the dynamics at play in human relationships.

When you meet someone new and wish to have an impact on them, they are essentially asking two questions. Though they may not voice them explicitly; 1/ they are wondering: Do I trust your character? Do I see you as a person of integrity?

2/ And they are also asking: Do you possess credible competency? Can you help me in a specific area where I am struggling?

It is important to have both trust in your character and confidence in your abilities. When these elements are present, the person you are seeking to influence becomes more receptive to building a relationship.

The challenge arises when many of us, out of self-preservation, rely solely on our credible competency. We use our expertise or skills to make a transaction, selling

something to others. Once the sale is made, we move on, satisfied with the immediate result. However, this approach is stuck on the surface (a transaction) and leaves long-term influence untapped. If we are willing to break through our walls of self-preservation and establish genuine relationships, we not only create opportunities for influence and impact in the moment but also for years to come. Therefore, a key challenge for all of us is to develop the ability to cultivate long-term relationships. How can we become individuals whom others trust over time, believing in our credibility and integrity?

The Trust Process Model helps us address this question. When we engage with another person, walls are high. By understanding what they value in a relationship as a starting point, helps to begin lowering their walls of self-preservation. I have found those who are analytical tend to value competency and credibility initially. Those who are relational bent, tend to value character and chemistry.

Not all four C's need to be green for walls to lower; but I have found you can't have any reds. They need to be green or yellow for influence and relationship to occur and not transaction.

Walls. We use walls as a defensive mechanism to protect ourselves. This connects with 1-Bag man who choose to hide. How he sees himself often is how he sees God. If we have been hurt in the past by someone, that hurt hardens as a mechanism making it difficult for us to be vulnerable. We hide, we fake it, we are not our true self with others.

By understanding the trust process, leaders can focus on building relationships that precede opportunities. The richness of these long-term connections far surpasses the immediate transactions we might achieve. As a leader who learns to build lasting relationships, you open doors to diverse opportunities that may arise years from now.

Q- Which of the "4-Cs" is your trust default tendency?

Share your answers in pairs or with the larger group.

Q- How high are your walls when meeting people for the first time?

IV. WRAP

Building trusting relationships is so important in business.

Clients= Money, Brand name, social proof

Employees= Emotional safety, belonging, and higher productivity.

**Seek to have both trust in your character and confidence in your abilities.
When these elements exist, others are more receptive to building a relationship.**

Action Steps |

- What do you need from the group to be intentional and put these tips into practice?
- This month focus on improving your relationships.

GOALS |

- Ask each for their goals from this meeting to the next.
- Commit to prayer & supporting each other.

Name	Business	Personal	Faith
First Name		Strength training	Integration
First Name	LT/Culture	Running (alarms)	Listening to Him
Jon	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Kevin	Culture	Intentionality	Consistency
Brad	Culture	Leading the Family	Intentionality
First Name	Culture	Strength thru surgery; leverage time	Trusting Him

Hiding

“I was afraid” was part of the 1-Bag man’s response.

Fear makes us hide, not act quickly, hesitate, not allow God to multiply.

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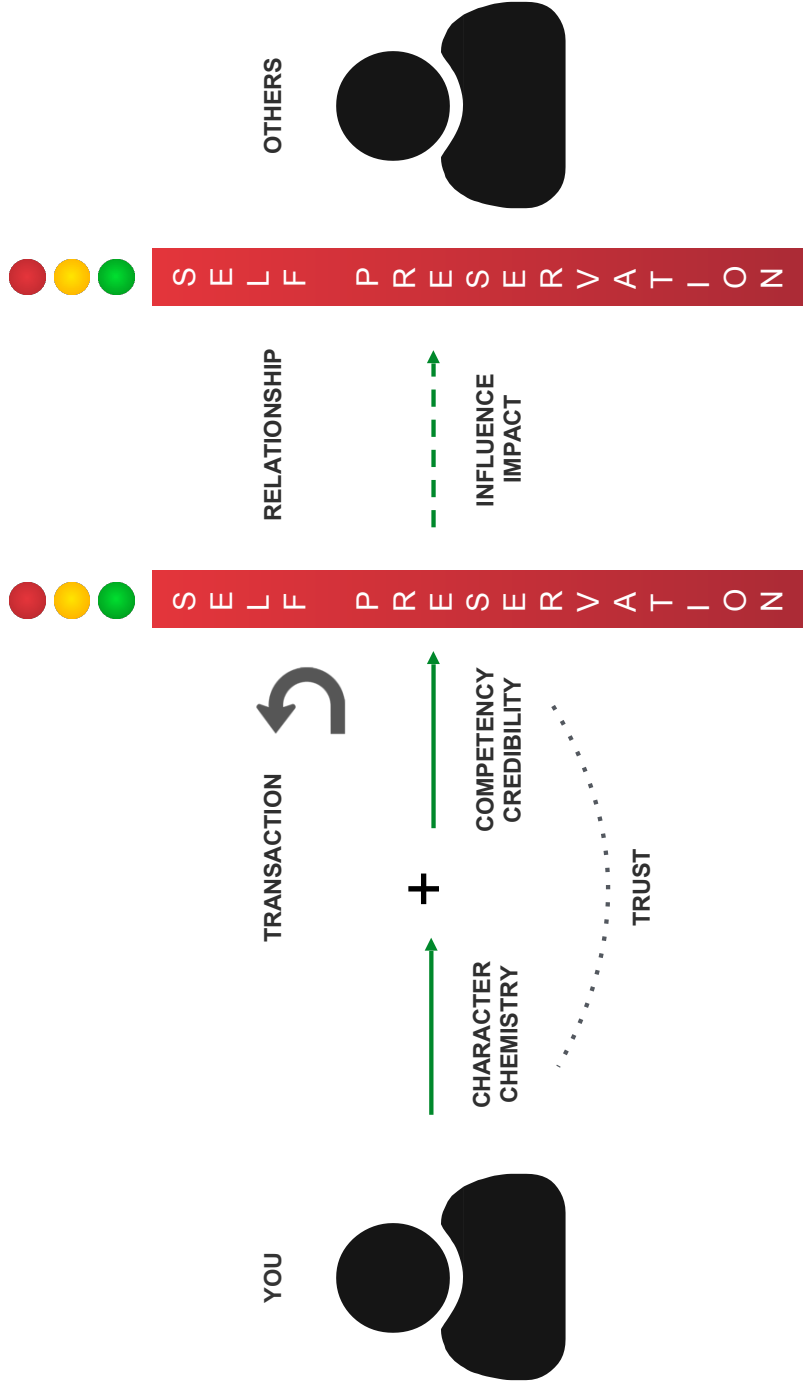
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Q- Which of these do you have about God and yourself today? Circle the ones you can relate to.

Q- How do we prevent or protect ourselves from these lies?

TRUST PROCESS



BUSINESS FAITH GROUPS

RELATIONSHIP BEFORE OPPORTUNITY

