



Do More

“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!’
Matthew 25:23

“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.”
Matthew 25:29

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for **more**, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:38

Further reading: Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25: 14-30

Do you remember when you first learned to do a new and challenging task as a young kid? For me, it was swimming. I remember the nervous excitement I felt as I was encouraged by Coach Craig to jump out of that chair (all the chairs were literally sitting in the shallow end of the pool) and go under water to get my colored golf ball. Up until this point, I had been baby pool bound. It was nice, but quite limited. My heart yearned to go for more and to step out into the large ocean that I called a pool. However, when it was time to make the leap, the pounding of my heart and my feelings were screaming at me to stay put - to stay baby pool bound. But I would have none of it... because there was more. More pool to experience. More fun to embrace... like nailing the high dive! The reality is that God had given me the talent and ability to swim but I had to step out beyond what I had been limited to and go after more!

God is a God of more! That statement may not sit well with you at first, but as we look at the Scripture references above and read the story of the parable of the talents, this truth becomes clear. God gives us different amounts of talents, abilities, and experiences on this earth so that we will embrace them and take responsibility over how He might want to use each one to expand and grow His Kingdom! And the crazy thing about the goodness of God is that as we use what He’s given us, He has promised to give us more! More grace, more faith, more resources, more courage, more provision is actually what He desires for me and you! So, what are you waiting for? What’s holding you back? Well, a lot of things can threaten us to

stay in the “shallow end” of life instead of diving into God’s more, can’t they? We are no different from the servants in the Parable from Matthew 25, are we?

From this passage and from my own life, some of the big threats I see revolve around the ugly F-word called FEAR - Fear of the unknown, fear of what others might think of us, fear of God (in an unhealthy way), and fear of what we perceive as failure. But I’m asking you to not listen to those voices or those feelings!

We desire that each person who partners with us on a short-term mission team in Jonestown becomes a conduit for God to flow through so that His Kingdom will be brought to our community. And the truth is that in order for that to occur, it is crucial that you DO MORE! Do more than you think you can, because that’s always when God shows up! Instead of settling for a “nice mission trip,” step out of your comfort zone and what you believe are limitations, and let God take your “few” and multiply into more!

Small Group Questions:

1. Read and discuss Matthew 25: 14-30. Which servant do you currently most reflect? What do you have that God has given you? What are you doing with it? How are you seeing God "do more" in your life? If not, why do you think that is? What does it look like for you to be faithful in preparing for this mission trip? What limitations and fears might prevent you from "doing more"?
2. In your current season of life, what abilities and gifts do you see that God could use on your short-term mission trip to Jonestown?
3. How do you pray that God "does more" for your mission team during this trip?