



**SEE IT**

**Mathew 25:24** "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. <sup>25</sup> **I was afraid** I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'

**OBEY IT**

What would you do if you knew failure was not possible? Today, take some time to read Matthew 25. It's a great chapter. One of the stories it shares is about three people that were given some money. Two invested it and increased their earnings, one did not. He said something very revealing: "I was afraid". Fear paralyzed him. It can do the same to us too. Here are some lessons from that passage:

- 1. Our perception of who God is directly affects our tolerance for risk.** If we see a God who is mad, angry, and concentrate on his judgment while neglecting his grace, our service for him decreases. That reality directly affects the people around us, because our gifts were made to bless others, not to be hoarded and hidden.
- 2. If God has given you gifts he expects a return investment.** In case you forgot, he was the one who gave you the 5,2, or 1 talents you have in the first place. You didn't get those talents on your own to begin with!
- 3. God has not called you to be someone you are not.** If you are a 2 talent person, he does not want you to act like a 5 talent. Or a 1 talent. He doesn't want us to be **everything** or do **everything** but he does want us to do **something**. Like serving someone else with our 5, 2 or 1 talents. Help. Not hide.

**SHARE IT**

Today do this:

1. Fill an expired or about to expire parking meter.
2. Leave some extra money in the vending machine.
3. Buy a little extra grocery for the local food bank.

**My Prayer Today:**

Something is going to happen today that will test your faith. Walk through it without fear. Pray this: "God, help me be ready to try something new."

**My Thoughts** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SEE IT**

**Luke 1:7** They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

**OBEY IT**

One of the most rewarding things I remember as a parent is seeing my kids play organized baseball (Jonas) and softball (Vanessa). They were athletically gifted but they also sometimes struck out. Strike three means you sit. You failed. You're **out!** If you notice in today's text which is part of a larger story of a miracle, God uses people and situations that are less than ideal, downright difficult and bordering on impossible. Elizabeth and Zechariah had three strikes against them that are also three lessons:

- 1. Old** (well, you know what that means...) God uses people that are past their prime.
- 2. Unfertile** (could not conceive) God uses people that are working with impossibilities.
- 3. Unbelief** (he didn't believe it was possible) God uses people that don't have perfect faith.

God took a package of nothing, and made them parents. He took a stutterer and made him a leader. He took an easy woman and made her an example of virtue. Surely he can use you. Surely you are not **out**. Remember that:

*"God takes men as they are... They are not chosen because they are perfect, but notwithstanding their imperfections, that through the knowledge and practice of the truth, through the grace of Christ, they may become transformed into His image."*

*Desire of Ages, p. 294*

**SHARE IT**

**Pick one today:**

1. Prepare a meal for a homeless person.
2. Smile more than usual. :)
3. Call your mother or family member to tell them "I love you."

**My Prayer Today:**

You probably have deficiencies in an area. God, I believe can use you in spite of \_\_\_\_\_. Lord, thanks for choosing me. I wov to keep hitting. Keep serving.

**My Thoughts** \_\_\_\_\_  
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