

A child's hand, wearing a white sleeve, is reaching towards several coins scattered on a dark, weathered wooden floor. The coins are of various denominations, including 10 and 20 Euro coins. The background is a close-up of the wooden floor with a metal bolt visible.

Parable of the Valuable Coins

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



Parable of the Valuable Coins

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MATERIAL:

- 15 Coins
- Flowerpot with dirt
- Offering plate
- Dollar bills (optional)

Repeat after me:

"Well done!

You are a good and faithful servant.

You've been faithful over a little.

I'll put you in charge of much." (Matthew 25:23)

Jesus told a story about a rich man who before leaving for a trip decided to give one of his workers five coins (count out five coins).

The worker took the coins and spent them in a way that made five more coins (count out another five coins and add them to the previous five).

To another worker, he gave two coins (count out two coins) and the worker spent the coins in a way that doubled what she had been given (count out two more coins and add them to the previous two).

***"Well done!
You are a good and faithful servant.
You've been faithful over a little.
I'll put you in charge of much."***

—MATTHEW 25:23

To the third worker, the rich man gave one coin. And that man was so nervous about losing it that he buried the coin in the dirt (push the coin into the dirt in the flowerpot).

When the rich man came back, he learned that the worker whom he gave the five valuable coins to had doubled them (pick up the ten coins and put them in

the offering plate). He said the following. *Repeat after me:*

"Well done!

You are a good and faithful servant.



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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

You've been faithful over a little.
I'll put you in charge of much."

When the rich man learned that the worker whom he gave the two valuable coins to had doubled them (pick up the four coins and put them in the offering plate). He said the following. *Repeat after me:*

"Well done!
You are a good and faithful servant.
You've been faithful over a little.
I'll put you in charge of much."

When the rich man learned that the worker whom he gave the one valuable coin had buried it, he was angry that the man had wasted the chance to use his gift for something greater.

(Hold up the offering plate.) When we give to the church, these coins that are collected help to pay for this building. But they also are multiplied with offerings from churches all over the world to build schools, to feed people who are hungry and to share the good news of God's love.

When you share what you have—sometimes it's money but it also might be your time or something that you are good at—to help others and to share God's love, what you have to offer becomes stronger and multiplies. And God sees what you are doing and says:

"Well done!
You are a good and faithful servant.
You've been faithful over a little.
I'll put you in charge of much."



(optional) I'm going to give you each a dollar. This week, think about how you can use it to help others. And next week, you can tell me about it and maybe you will find a way to multiply it and bring your gift or a prayer for those who were helped to the offering plate.

LET US PRAY:

Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us. We love you so much and want to be faithful in sharing our gifts with you. Show us how to serve you with our time, our money and our actions. Help us to be more generous. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



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