



PART FIVE:
"Equipped to Serve"
Matthew 25:14-30

MINING THE FIVE STONES

Our Core Values Unleashed

The Parable of the Talents

Hard questions
What's a talent?
Finding perspective in the Biblical context
Matthew 24: the end times and the return of Jesus
Matthew 24:44: the "topical sentence" for chapter 25
The Ten Virgins: be vigilant and watchful
The Talents: be an active steward of God's gifts to you
The Sheep/Goats: directed toward the least of these
Refusal to be a conduit of God's blessings
Support from the gospel of Luke
The reason for severity: akin to embezzlement
The SPRINKLER
Giving more to the one who already has
Taking away from the one who does not have
Saving and losing: Matthew 16:25
First and last: Matthew 20:16
The Abrahamic Blessing: Genesis 12:2
Paul on giving: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Equipped to Serve

Committed to the joy of God's people
Enter into the joy of your Master
God's design: service is the path toward joy
In giving itself
In seeing the gift received
In using your unique make-up to deliver the gift

Sprinklers

Discovering your sprinkler type
Gardens, lawns, fields, crops
Tuning up your sprinkler
Practicing with your sprinkler
Using your sprinkler prolifically in your beachhead



The Fifth Stone: Snowflake Obsidian

The snowflake has long been held up as a symbol of uniqueness. This stone, with its snowflake-like images, suggests to us that we are each uniquely created by God and each given the privilege to live out a particular destiny that will place another thread in the unimaginably beautiful tapestry that God through Jesus is weaving even now.