

# Matthew 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

## Analysis

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**But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money**—The strong adversative *de* (δέ, but) signals a sharp contrast. While the others traded immediately, this servant ὅρυξεν (ὅρυξεν, dug) and ἐκρύψεν (ἐκρύψεν, hid) the argyron (ἀργυρίον, silver/money).

Burying valuables was common theft-prevention, considered legally prudent—but it was also utterly risk-averse. This servant chose absolute safety over faithful stewardship. His action reveals a heart problem: he feared loss more than he loved his master's interests. Zero risk meant zero growth, making him unprofitable (v.30). Fear masquerading as prudence is still disobedience.

## Historical Context

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Jewish law (Mishnah, Baba Metzia 42a) held that burying money in the ground constituted reasonable care—if stolen, the guardian wasn't liable. However, this legal safety came at the cost of productivity. Professional bankers (trapezitai) offered interest-bearing deposits, making burial a choice of absolute security over profitable stewardship.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What spiritual gifts or opportunities have you 'buried' out of fear of failure or risk?
2. How does risk-aversion masquerade as wisdom in your Christian life?
3. Are you more concerned with preserving what you have or multiplying it for your Master's glory?

## Interlinear Text

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ό	δὲ	τὸ	ἐν	λαβὼν	ἀπελθὼν	ἄρυξεν	ἐν	τῇ
G3588	<b>But</b>	G3588	<b>one</b>	<b>he that had received</b>		<b>went</b>	<b>and digged</b>	<b>in</b>
		G1161		G1520		G565	G3736	G1722
				G2983				
γῆ	καὶ	ἀπέκρυψεν	τὸ	ἀργύριον	τοῦ	κυρίου	αὐτοῦ	
<b>the earth</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>hid</b>	G3588	<b>money</b>	G3588	<b>lord's</b>	G846	
G1093	G2532	G613		G694		G2962		

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