

The Parables of the Kingdom

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

**Last week of His life – before going to the cross –
Sign coming end of the age**

A) This parable tells what to do while we wait for Jesus to return!

B) Luke 19 Left this Charge: *Do Business until I come!*

C) The Parable describes a wealthy man who left his servants with some resources to attend to while he was away. **Called Talents**

D) In the first century a “talent” was a large amount of money.

1) Originally it stood for a particular weight; later it came to represent that weight in gold or silver coins.

E) Most scholars say that a talent of silver would represent approximately 16½ years of salary for a soldier or a laborer.

1) So we are talking a lot of money!

Given according to their own ability!

A) First man was entrusted with 5 talents would be like giving him 80 years of salary to invest.

B) Second man’s two talents would equal 33 years of salary,

C) Third man’s one talent would be 16½ yrs of salary.

The Master knew what each one of them was capable of and entrusted to them accordingly.

A) When the master gave the talents to the servants, both they and he understood that it was still **his money**.

B) They understood they were just STEWARDS

1) ONE day he would call for an accounting of how they had spent it

Application for us.

A) Your talent is ANYTHING GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

B) Musical gift /Ability to make money/ leadership responsibility/ Your family/ giftings / talent

C) The Bible tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. James 1:17

1) We are stewards of the talents He has given to us!

Like in this story He gives according to our ability or what he knows we can handle!

A) Key: Don't focus on what others have – Easy to do

B) I wanted a musical gift — I would have loved to have been a worship leader!

C) Didn't give me that – gave me a passion for the word – heart for God's pp

1) I took that and have worked hard to develop a teaching gift that is still evolving –

Too many are focused on what they don't have!

Instead of using what God gave to them – they sulk being focused on what He has given to someone else.

The Key is using your gift for his kingdom

Even your life is a gift from God. One day you will have to answer for what you did with the life God.

Radical thought – God entrust us with gifting and responsibility – Exciting and sobering!

A) Exciting to think – I get to partner with God –

B) God has made something – created something – put something together – says – Now you tend it

1) You take this gift and work it / develop it

C) You take this responsibility and foster it

Wow that is exciting! Same time – sobering – scary like giving the keys to your new car to your teenager

A) WOW! -

B) Also sobering- because **THE MASTER EXPECTS A RETURN** {I will give an account this church

1) My marriage / my friends –

C) Bema Seat – Reward seat

Romans 14:12 **“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”**

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

“Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Test our Motives -

C) What He is looking for is **FAITHFULNESS!**

Now I like the way the NASB renders v. 16,17 "**Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received the two talents had gained two more.**" NASB

Jesus is emphasizing how two servants went into immediate action.

Here we see a good picture of faithfulness.

These two servants immediately went into action to put what the master had entrusted to them into use.

- A) There was no procrastination in mind or delaying until it appeared to be a convenient time.
- B) Faithfulness does not have to deliberate over whether or not to serve the Lord or obey the Lord.
- C) **Faithfulness moves into action**, loyally seeking to honor the Lord with whatever one has and with whatever one can do.

EXCITED TO BE USED!

A) "**See, I have gained five more talents.**"

Look, look, my master, look what I have to give back to you out of what you've entrusted to me!

B) **We must not miss this because it demonstrates the heart of one that knows Christ.**

- 1) The believer finds deep satisfaction and delight in pleasing the Lord.

C) To hear the words, "**Well done,**" amounts to far more worth in the Christian's ears than all of the accolades of the world.

1) What matters to you – that the Pastor notices – or God.

D) Heart of the true Believer!

The true believer wants to give back –

A) Maturity moves from what can I get to how can I give – how can I serve – True Love responds – doesn't just take

B) **Marriage:** Many go into Marriage thinking – How is this person going to satisfy me

1) Meet my needs – how am I going to be gratified in this marriage

C) But there comes a point in a healthy marriage – where there is a shift that affects every aspect of the relationship including sexual relationship –

D) **Goal motivation is how can I Bless my spouse** / satisfy my spouse / gratify my spouse – true satisfaction in the relationship is found in blessing the other.

E) SAME IS TRUE IN THE LORD

1) Love Him so much – because we are so perfectly loved – we just want to bless Him

REWARDS WITH MORE RESPONSIBILITY

Notice how the master's delight is expressed by rewarding more responsibility. "**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your Lord.**"

The master did not call for a retirement party for the two faithful slaves.

A) Instead, the master entrusted more responsibility to them for his honor and glory

B) What a picture for us!

The reward of faithfulness is that the Lord entrusts us with more of that which belongs to Him and which we are to use for His glory.

C) Faithfulness at Home: Expand your borders -

1) Faithful in discipleship leads to leading a homegroup –

2) Faithfulness in a home group can lead to Pastoring a Church.

D) Blesses us with more responsibility – What we were **SAVED** for – **Created in Christ**

for good works

Third servant didn't do well!

24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.

Problem with this servant is he has a great misconception of the heart of His master

A) This slave immediately begins to find fault with his master and place the blame on him.

B) Many pp in the Church that are that way – they are saved but they are not surrendered –

1) They have this great misconception of God –

2) He is going to make them do something he doesn't want them to do. {He is UNFAIR

C) I felt that way Once: Believers meeting – I avoided it – **Scared – Africa**

D) One day a friend asked me to go - My testimony –
God moving on my heart – desire for the word

Quit playing ball – Yea I gave that up – but God has given me so much more – always that way

A) Never regretted not playing pro baseball –

B) Friends messed up – empty – divorced

C) I am so fulfilled - **Great wife – partner** – in ministry – 3 great kids

1) Pastor a great Church – blessed every day to be here – such an awesome body of believers

D) Been blessed to travel the world – telling pp about Jesus – training pastors –

E) **I never wanted to go to Africa** – I have been there 3 times – probably will be going back – first time –

1) I cried – training hungry Pastors – God thank you for sending me here. – Thank you for that blessing

The 3rd servant is called wicked and Lazy – He is cast out.

A) The person in the Story here I believe represents an unbeliever – who is wasting his life

B) God has given Him life – given him the opportunity of salvation –

1) that is the most precious gift – but because of his misconception about God and his own laziness he does nothing

C) MAKES EXCUSES – HEARS DEPART

Common theme in many of these parables dealing with mixture: Context of this Chapter

A) 10 virgins – 5 oil really saved – 5 not!

B) Sheep and the goats – Mixture – wheat and tares

C) Here you have a servant who really doesn't know the heart of the Master – Lazy and wicked

1) Does nothing with what is entrusted to Him – Consequently cast out.

That being said: We who are believers need to be careful that in laziness or fear of failure – we do nothing with what God as entrusted to us.

A) Although saved – NO REWARD – nothing to show.

Proverbs 14:4

**“Without oxen a stable stays clean,
but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.”**

Translation: Where there is a harvest there is going to be some messes in the barn. Cow Pie's

Here's another quote I ran across this week:

“A ship is safe when anchored in the harbor, but that's not what ships are for.”

A more biblical view would be as follows:

A) To be saved means to be so secure in the love of God that you never have to play it safe again.

B) To me that's a far superior perspective. Salvation puts you in such a position that you can afford to take big risks because you know that God loves you even when you fail.

C) Our great calling is to find out what God is doing in the world, and then to fling ourselves wholeheartedly into his cause. Let me make that more specific ...

Go back to your home, your business, your neighborhood, your classroom, your family, your church, your town, your city, your state, your nation.

Go back to your world, wherever it is, and find out what God is doing there. Then go do it with him.

Throw yourself without hesitation into God's work in your world.

A) And then get ready for the time of your life.

B) Here is what you will have to look forward to:

- 1. Attack from the enemy.**
- 2. Stretched**
- 3. Miracles**
- 4. Discovery: His grace is Sufficient.**
- 5. Blessing here: Being his instrument.**
- 6. Reward here: More responsibility.**
- 7. Reward and responsibility in eternity.**