

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents (The King and His Kingdom)

14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, **to each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. **19 After a long time** the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you were **faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.**’

22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you have been **faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

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.’

26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘**You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown**, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming **I would have received back my own with interest.** 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And

cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

PRAY

Question: Are you a Thermometer or a thermostat ?

A) If we were to compare your life to one of these instruments – which best describes you?

B) A Thermometer registers the temperature- it is hot in here. Or it is too Cold.

C) A Thermostat regulates the temperature- The Thermostat affects the temperature.

A lot of Christians are like Thermometers. They register the temperature of the times and the culture.

A) These are evil days - these are tough times. Our world is getting crazy.

B) Often times their registering of the temperature is seen in complaining:

1) **This world is going to handbasket**

C) Sometimes it registers in Fear –what is happening

Sometimes the registering only makes it worse?

A) Outside backyard last Sunday. Temp registered 100 degrees- only made it worse:

B) I knew it was hot - but when I saw that it was 100 -I didn’t really want to do anything.

1) Too hot to work in the backyard.

C) A thermometer registers and reports the cultural climate

A Thermostat- changes the culture: Impacts the Culture.

A) **Anyone can be a thermometer – but Jesus calls us to be Thermostats – impact and change – culture.**

B) How do we do that? – One way is to REALIZE What God has given us

1) **AND TO use what God has given us – for His Glory!**

C) We have before us today – the Parable of the talents

1) Three servants that were entrusted with resources by their master – CALLED TALENTS

D) A talent was a large sum of money – that was equivalent to 20 yrs wages

1) So we are talking a lot of Money

Note: they were Given according to their own ability!

A) In other words – the responsibility wasn't supposed to OVERWHELM THEM.

B) The amounts were given as to what the master believed they could handle

1) What he believed each was capable of being entrusted with – His Confidence in them

C) First man was entrusted with 5 talents

1) That would be like giving him 100 years of salary to invest.

D) Second man's two talents would equal 40 years of salary,

E) Third man's one talent would be 20 yrs of salary.

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

A) They understood they were just STEWARDS

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

C) The Master goes away on a Journey and his servants are to use what he gave them

1) To expand his Kingdom

D) V.19 – The master was gone a long time!

Have you every noticed that in so many of these parables Jesus tells – the master is always gone a long time? –

A) The Master always delays his coming?

B) Think Jesus is wanting us to catch a clue here:

1) There are going to be delays – but the delays are not so you can get lazy –

2) But rather so that you can be more productive

C) Mentioned last week: The Lord's timing is different from ours

D) I often feel like God is often running late. - He is always on time. His timing is just different.

Like the guy who was having a conversation with the Lord:

- M. Lord how much is a Million dollars to you?
- G. Like a penny –
- M. Ok what is a hundred years to you?
- G. like a second –
- M. Lord can I have penny?
- G. Sure give me a second.

E) So we have a Master who entrusts resources to three servants – he goes away.

1) He is gone a long time – which gives the servants the opportunity to be more productive.

Application for us.

A) Jesus our Master has entrusted Resources to us!

B) He has gone away for a Long time

C) Your talent is ANYTHING of Value that GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

Talents:

A) Family – Kids / leadership responsibility / Ability to make money/ resources/ Musical gift /

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

1) Talents – is something God has given us or placed before us

C) 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) Too many believers focus on what they don't have

1) Instead of using what God has given to them

C) They sit and sulk because they are focused on what he has given to someone else!

The Key is to realize what you have been given has been given to you by God.

A)It is a blessing that He has entrusted that to you.

B)Need to see it as a great work! – Great opportunity a great Privilege

C)Nehemiah was building a wall – Think – anyone could do that – right –

1)They tried to pull him off the wall – He said: **I am doing a great work and can't come down!**

You have been entrusted with a great work – You have been blessed in order to be a blessing!

A)That is how you become a Thermostat instead of a thermometer

B)**There are lots of thermometers – register** – this stinks – this is wrong – there is a problem here

1)Or their **freaking out playing the what** if game – well what if this happens – that happens –

C)We don't have time for that – God is looking for people who will be Thermostats

1)Impact makers – Change agents – who take what He has given to them and use it for His GLORY !

What is God looking for from His servants?

A)FAITHFULNESS – V.21 – The master comes back and the first servant doubled the investment – 10-20

100yrs salary = 200yrs

21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you were **faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.**'

B)Doesn't say: Well done you are so talented and gifted – you are such a success

1)Good and faithful

C)**Here is the Key: Faithful over a few things-** make you ruler over many things

1)Few things: Little in the eyes of the master – he is so wealthy

D)But it is being faithful in the little things – the few things – results in greater responsibility

Notice the master's delight!

A)He says the same thing to both of first two servants

'Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you have been **faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

B)This teaches us two things:

#1 God rewards faithfulness with more responsibility and opportunity to make a greater impact

C)God expands your borders when He finds in you someone he can rely on -

D)Greater impact here and in eternity!

1)**His reign**

#2 there is joy in Serving God

A)You were created to bring Him glory –

B)You and I are most fulfilled when we are doing what God designed for us to be doing in this season.

C) In My book Longings of the Soul – Built in longing for three distinct things

1)Intimacy with God - Heaven - to make an eternal impact

D)God's spirit is always moving us in that direction

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

A)**Workmanship is poema = Masterpiece**

B)Created in Christ – Saved for a purpose – works and opportunities that God prepared before hand

1)Our Job is to walk in them – one translation – step into the role.

We spend some much time in life trying to figure out why we are here? What is my purpose?

A)Young people in School trying to figure out – what Career path to take

B)Some times that answer is best found by looking at what God has entrusted into your hands

1)What has God placed in front of you right now

C) Be faithful in that! – Be faithful in the few things

1) Mom – with your kids - Student with your studies

D) In you current Job – Be faithful

Some people are crippled in the present because they are thinking long term –

A) They are so busy worrying about the future? Who am I going to marry? Where live/

B) What does God have for me? - What Am I suppose to be doing with my life?

C) I want to encourage you: - Just be faithful in the little things –

1) **Do the next thing** – Be faithful in the present

D) In opportunities: First role in ministry was to set up chairs. – Every week – for a year

1) Doing this for Jesus – Joy help my Pastor

In His presence is fullness of Joy –

A) Best place to be is in the center of God's will – Fulfilling his purpose for your life.

B) Right now – what has God entrusted to you?

1) What people? - What responsibilities?

What opportunities?

C) What abilities? What Talents?

1) **BE FAITHFUL –**

You do that and your heart will be filled with great Joy!

A) **You know what saps our Joy? – Living for self!**

B) See Self is never satisfied – LIVING FOR SELF sucks the joy right out of you

C) So we have two servants that are great examples of what TO DO!

1) But the third guy – the opposite

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) This servant I think is a good picture of the unbeliever – misconceptions about God.

C) **Youth Pastor Surveys in Witnessing -**

1) God is angry – Mean – Big Stick waiting for me to step out of line

D) God forces himself on people – takes what is not His

That view is not reserved for the unbeliever!

A) If we are honest one of the main reasons why Jesus followers are not fully surrendered – TRUST

B) Deep down in our hearts – we wrestle – because we think – if I really surrendered – my marriage

1) God is going to ask me to do something I don't want to do.

C) So we go at it sort of half way – We live in this give and take mentality in marriage.

1) We look to COMPROMISE with our spouse – when Jesus says – GO ALL IN!

We hold back at times from allowing God to have the steering wheel of the Car of our lives

A) We are afraid He is going to take us where we don't want to go.

B) I actually viewed God that way for a long time.

1) Convinced – fully surrendered – send me to Africa and I had no desire to go to Africa

C) When I finally fully surrendered – God got a hold of my heart – began to shape it and mold it

1) Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart –

D) In reality – He shapes your heart after His heart!

YOU know what I have been to Africa 11 times now and counting

The first time I went to train African Pastors to teach them how to teach the Bible – I CRIED

A) Lord I can't believe you are letting me do this –

B)I can't believe that I was such a knuckle head

C)Those trips have been some of the biggest blessings of my life

D)He loves us so much – **Undefeatable love of Christ**

1)Paul Prayed – Know the Height/Width/Length/Depth of the Love of Christ

E)**The More we understand His love** – The better off we are – Motivator – Compels me

1)Nothing can separate -

F)He Loves us so MUCH – He is so patient with us
We are so FOOLISH NOT TO TRUST HIM

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

A)Again I believe this is a great picture of an unbeliever – who is wasting his life

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

C)that is the most precious gift –

1)but because of his misconception about God and his own laziness he does nothing

D)HE IS Consequently CAST OUT – horrible ending

C)How can a loving God send people to Hell

1)He doesn't Chose to go by rejecting THE GIFT

We can be lazy too! – Dream Sin/o/meter

A)Sin of commission – things we do wrong

B)Sins of Omission – He who knows the right thing to do and doesn't do it.... Sin

C)When we take what God has entrusted to us – in laziness – we do nothing with it

1)STILL SAVED – but so sad – missing out

When Christianity turns into a noun, it becomes a turnoff.

Christianity was always intended to be a verb.

And, more specifically, an action verb.

The title of the book of Acts says it all, doesn't it?

It's not the book of Ideas or Theories or Words.

It's the book of Acts. If the twenty-first-century

church said less and did more, maybe we would have the same kind of impact the first-century church did."

— **Mark Batterson, Wild Goose Chase**

Church – what has God entrusted to you? - Be faithful

A)Step out into what the Lord has given to you –

B)Don't be afraid to take risk - or to make mistakes

C)There was probably some risk involved in what the first two guys did with the investments

Proverbs 14:4

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

Translation: **A clean barn = NO harvest** – but where there is a harvest there is also messes.

Closing: What has God given to you?

A)What has he entrusted into your hands

B)What are you doing with it

C)**You have been blessed to be a blessing**

Instead of complaining about the current state of affairs, we need to offer better alternatives. [...] we need to stop cursing the darkness and start lighting some candles!" - **Mark Batterson,**