

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 (NKJV)

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 Therefore 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.’

Let's analyze the parable and see what the parable is saying

- a. A Lord was going away for a while
- b. Before he left he gave his servants some talents
- c. The servants were tasks by the Lord to increase of his talents and upon his return, they should present to him the increase plus the original talents.
- d. Two servants brought the Lord a return on his talents plus the increase
 - i. They did so through trade or interaction with others
 - ii. Those two servants were rewarded
- e. One servant didn't bring a return
 - i. His talents were taken away and given to the others
 - ii. That servant was punished

How do we apply that parable to our lives?

Let's identify the components of the parable

Man – Servant – Talent - Trade – Increase

Now let's see how our reality lines up with the parable

- a. The Man (Lord)
 - i. The Lord God is the Man
 - ii. Lord has left but will return
 - iii. The Lord left His servants with His talents and expects His Servants to bring a return on the talents
 - iv. The Lord rewards those who bring him a return and punishes those that don't.

- b. Servants
 - i. We are the servants
 - ii. The Lord left us with an expectation that when He returns we will have a harvest for him.
 - iii. Our individual expectation of bringing a harvest is based on our own unique ability.
 - iv. Our ability to fulfill that expectation is based on our relationship with the Lord
 - v. The greater our ability to handle his talents, the greater the return on his talents will be.

- c. Talents
 - i. Talents are defined as something of great value

- ii. Talents were given to the servants by their Lord
 - iii. The talents were not the servants, the talents were the possession of the Lord
 - iv. The servants proceeded to engage themselves in an act of trade to bring back to the Lord an increase on His talents
 - v. The act of trade requires interaction with others in order to acquire more talents
 - vi. The increase in talents was of the same form as the original talents
- d. God has commanded us to bring him an increase on the talents that is the same as the original talent he gave us
- e. So what has God commanded us to bring to Him

Matthew 4:19 New King James Version
(NKJV)

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 13:47 New King James Version (NKJV)
For so the Lord has commanded us:
I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends
of the earth.”

- i. We've determine that the increase is lives
- ii. therefore the original thinking that the talent is your gifts needs to be adjusted
- iii. Your gifts that you were given such as singing, dancing, acting and so on represents the act of trade. It is the method that you use to interact with the world with the objective of returning to the Lord His increase on his talents

- iv. Since the talent has to be the same as the increase returned to the Lord and we have been commissioned to bring people back to Christ The **TALENT IS YOUR LIFE**

So what does that mean?

- 1. We are the Lords talent and therefore we are valuable
- 2. Your value does not depend on your skills and gifts
- 3. Your gifts are to be used to bring lives back to the Lord.
- 4. Our ability to operate in our purpose is based on our relationship with the Lord
- 5. It is that relationship that lets us know our value to Him and what he expects from us
- 6. God will not put a burden on us that we cannot bear.
He knows our ability.
- 7. If you look at servant number 3. It states that his punishment was not based on his rate of return. But it was because he hid the item of value that the Lord had given him and did not allow the talent to even draw interest for just being a talent.
- 8. Let your light shine
- 9. We all have different God given abilities. Some of us have the ability to bring in a large number to the

kingdom and there are those us of expectation to bring in fewer to the kingdom. And there are those whose job is to just be the best Christian they can be by just letting their light shine, they will bring some into the kingdom. Regardless of who we are, we fit into one of these categories and have the responsibility to serve the Lord with our lives by using our gifts to bring moves into the house of the Lord. Cause if we don't, the life given to us will be taken away and we will be cast into outer darkness.

10. You are the Talent