

“Parable of the Talents”

Introduction – Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus in this parable describes a master who gives instructions to his servants before departing on a long journey. We are going to relate this to our walk with Jesus in our lives today.

So let’s dig in.

I. THE GIVING OF TALENTS - VERSES 14-18

Matthew 25:14-18(NIV)

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. **15** To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. **17** So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. **18** But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

In those days it was not a strange idea to have a landowner-master giving his servants great responsibility with his money. It was considered a safe and smart thing to do with well respected servants. A **TALENT** was not an ability (though this parable can have application to our abilities), but it was a unit of money worth at least \$1200 in modern terms.

William Barclay brings across “the talent was not a coin it was a weight, and therefore its value obviously depended on whether the material involved was copper, gold or silver”.

Each one was given according to their ability but it was a large amount even at one talent.

So in application of this parable it is appropriate to see these talents as life resources – such as time, money, abilities, and authority.

In this case it is definitely money so we notice right away the first two did something with their talents! They didn't just sit on them. They put it to good use. The third one is not the example we want to follow! We want to make the best use of our time, money, abilities and authority.

So let's move forward!

II. THE REWARDING OF GOOD, FAITHFUL SERVICE – VERSES 19-23

Matthew 25:19-23(NIV)

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ **21** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ **22** “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ **23** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Now we don't know exactly what they did with their entrusted talents but we do know they put it to good use.

We can deduct from this a few points as David Guzik brings across:

1. THEY DID THEIR WORK PROMPTLY

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

John 9:4 (NIV)

4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

2. THEY DID THEIR WORK WITH PERSEVERANCE

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **4** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

3. THEY DID THEIR WORK WITH SUCCESS

I Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

4. THEY WERE READY TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO THEIR MASTER

II Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:12 (NIV)

12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

We need to take this to heart about our serving the Lord Jesus in our lives! The reward was great as the master returned and saw the good things accomplished by the first two servants!

We all want to hear these words when our journey in life is completed:

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

21 “HIS MASTER REPLIED, ‘WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MANY THINGS. COME AND SHARE YOUR MASTER’S HAPPINESS!’

III. THE WARNING OF NOT SERVING WITH OUR WHOLE HEART – VERSES 24-30

Matthew 25:24-30 (NIV)

24 “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ **26** “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. **28** ““Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. **29** For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. **30** And throw that worthless

servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The bottom line is that we don’t want to have the attitude of this third servant. We can see about this servant:

1. HE DIDN’T THINK

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2. HE DIDN’T WORK

II Thessalonians 3:10-12 (NIV)

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” **11** We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. **12** Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

Proverbs 14:23 (NIV)

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

3. HE DIDN’T EVEN TRY

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

4. HE MADE EXCUSES

I Samuel 13:11-12 (NIV)

11 “What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, **12** I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

Proverbs 22:13 (NIV)

13 The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!” or, “I will be murdered in the streets!”

Matthew 25:44-45 (NIV)

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ **45** “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”

It is a serious problem. Not just sins we commit but the ones we commit by not doing what is right! Sins of omission!

*Share my hearts concern about the homeless problem in Hayward and Sawyer county

Conclusion

Prayer our hearts out!