



<https://redeeminggod.com/parable-of-the-talents-matthew-25-14-30/>

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

Matthew 25:14-30

Introduction

- **There are many competing philosophies about how to live our lives.**
- **As Christians, we want to know God's will...how to live in such a way as to please God and not waste our lives. After we're saved, now what?**
- **Jesus shared a parable to emphasize the importance of making the most of what God gives us before Jesus's *Second Coming*.**
- **Do you believe that God has given each one of us resources to be used for His Kingdom? If so, how are you spending your resources to grow the Kingdom of God?**

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

16 “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 17 The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. 18 But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

19 “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

21 “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together (*enter into the joy of your Lord*) !’

22 “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

23 “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

24 “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

26 “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27 why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank?

At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

28 “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30 Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Outline

- **Background**
- **We're All Servants**
- **We're Not All the Same**
- **We're All Stewards**
- **We're All Judged by God**
- **Conclusion**



<https://endofthematter.com/2022/01/what-does-the-parable-of-the-talents-mean-in-matthew-2514-30/>

Background

- **Situated between the Parable of the Ten Virgins (*must be ready with the light when the Groom comes*) and the Sheep & Goats (*God separates true believers from pretenders at the end of time*)**
- **The previous chapter is about the end of time and the next chapter is about Jesus being arrested and sentenced by Jewish leaders**
- **This parable was one of Jesus' final lessons to His disciples before He was crucified; used to motivate them to be diligent until He returns.**

- **Some modern readers think that it was good for the servants to be diligent, to be obedient, and to make a profit so many of us would support the actions of the first and second servants.**
- **However, Jewish readers at that time believed it was ungodly to profit from another's wealth, especially by exploitation or by charging interest (*depositing money in a bank*), so they would have supported the third servant's behavior.**
- **Additionally, the Jewish culture focused less on profit/interest, and more on honor (*so how you made the money is more important than how much money you could make; money is a tool to gain honor...and in this case to gain honor for God and His Kingdom*)**

- A talent is a measurement of weight for a precious metal, usually for money or coins, especially for gold or silver.
- A talent of gold would be worth about 20 years wages for a laborer. Some say it's worth \$400,000 - \$1,000,000 in today's value. A talent of silver would be considerably less, but still significant.
- Talent - *money, natural abilities, & spiritual gifts (basically anything that can advance God's)*
- Attempts to identify the talents with only spiritual gifts, or the law, or natural endowments, or the gospel, or whatever else leads to a narrowing of the parable with which Jesus would have been uncomfortable. Perhaps He chose the talent or mina symbolism because of its capacity for varied application (*in other words, talents could be quite comprehensive*).

We're All Servants

Matthew 25:14 - “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.”

- **Traveling into a far country (*ἀποδημῶν [apodēmōn]* , leaving home). Here our Lord, being about to withdraw his bodily presence from the earth and to ascend into heaven, represents himself as a man going into another country, and first putting his affairs in order and issuing instructions to his servants (comp. Matthew 21:3; 5). Who called his own (*τοὺς ἰδίους [tous idious]*) servants. The sentence literally is, As a man...called his own bond servants. Those who specially belonged to him - a figure of all Christians, members of Christ, doing him service as their Master.**



— *Pulpit Commentary*

Romans 6:16-18 - “Don’t you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over [*entrusted to*], and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - “A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful.”

We're *Not* All the Same

Matthew 25:15a - “He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities.”

1 Corinthians 12:12; 28-31 - “For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body — also is Christ....And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues [*languages*]. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.”

- **“Everyone is in full-time ministry. The difference is what is the primary focus of your ministry....Some people’s ministry is only focused on the gospel and disciples all the time (5 talents). Some people work full-time outside of a church or “ministry” setting and may volunteer to serve in church. For this person majority of their ministry happens in their jobs and communities (2 talents or 1 talent).”**

- Clarence L. Haynes, Jr.



We're All Stewards

Matthew 25:15b-17, “Then he went on a journey. Immediately, the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. In the same way the man with two earned two more..”

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.”

- **The first and second servants double their talents; this implies that using one's gifts and abilities will result in the gaining of more gifts and abilities rather than improving the gifts and abilities one already has, which is the usual understanding.**

A Steward:

- **Is diligent (“Immediately” vs. 15 & 16)**
- **Takes risks/invests (vs. 27)**
- **Is faithful (vs. 21 & 23)**
- **Shares in the Master's Joy (vs. 21 & 23)**



“If you don’t use it, you will lose it”

(vs. 28-29)

- **If you learn a skill and never use it again, you will most likely forget that skill.**
- **Ex. Try learning a new language, but don’t use it for many years. You might forget most of it.**

Creation/Cultural Mandate

- Genesis 1:28, “God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.’”



- **“Tragically, because of sin introduced during the Fall, men and women have abused their stewardship. But Christians, because of Christ’s redemptive work in their lives, now stand in the same place as Adam and Eve before the Fall. They can now approach culture with a clearer understanding of God’s mandate. We are now called to begin again to exercise proper stewardship.”**

- Hugh Whelchel

We're All Judged by God

Matthew 25:19 & 21 “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money...The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together (*enter into the joy of your Lord*) !’”

Matthew 25:26-27, “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’”

Galatians 6:7, “Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap...”

2 Corinthians 5:9-10, “Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Conclusion

The story of William Borden:

- Born into a wealthy family**
- Went to Yale and excelled in academics and sports; attended Princeton Theological Seminary**
- Felt called to be a missionary to Muslims in Northwest China**
- Went to Cairo to study Arabic first, but died of spinal meningitis shortly after arriving (never made it to China)**
- Left much of his wealth to Christian organizations to prepare and send missionaries**
- Several classmates committed to Christian service as a result**
- Before his death wrote “No Regrets”**

- **What “Talents” has God given you and how can you use them to expand His Kingdom?**

COMMUNION



For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV