

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

I. Introduction

- A. **Our Master has gone away. He will return.** In the meantime, He is accomplishing His work on earth through the life and ministry of the Holy Spirit and His church...you and me!
- B. **You and I have the great privilege of being a part of what God is doing in the world around us. We are “ministers of reconciliation.” The Gospel and salvation of God come to the world through the life and witness of the church.**
- C. **There are four main bones in every organization. The wish-bones: Wishing somebody would do something about the problem. The jaw-bones: Doing all the talking but very little else. The knuckle-bones: Those who knock everything. The back-bones: Those who carry the brunt of the load and do most of the work.**
- D. ***Each one of us* have a part to play in God’s Kingdom. *Each one of us* are given resources and gifts. And what we do with these matter. **We will one day be held to account for what we did with them.****
- E. **The first gift is eternal life and salvation itself.** The servant given one talent was offered this. He was given the chance to be a

part of the Master's life and work. But he chose not to commit his life to the Master's plan.

- F. **There are some in this room today that have yet to receive and participate in the life of Christ.** Jesus died on the cross for your sins but you have done nothing with this gift.
- G. **You have yet to receive it. You have buried the information in the back of your mind and bottom of your heart.** You have refused to commit yourself and the result is tragic...but more on this later.
- H. **For the believer in Christ, we have received this first gift and been given subsequent gifts and abilities after having done so.** To those who have salvation...even more has been given! We have received gifts and abilities from God to use for His work here on earth.
- I. **All of us receive different things and differing amounts. As F.D. Bruner once said, "In the Kingdom of Christ not all are created equal."**
- J. **But all are expected to do and give their best as faithful stewards...managers of God's gifts**
- K. And that is what we are really going to talk about today...What does it mean to give your best? What does God expect from you? When can you be assured that someday, when held to account, your life will measure up?

I. First Things First

- A. **The first gift we are offered is salvation from sin and death. The first thing God gives us is an opportunity to be a part of His family and Kingdom work.** He invites us in and allows us the opportunity to receive this initial gift or reject it.
- B. The servant with the single talent was never really a servant at all. he never obeyed His master...never participated in the Master's life and Kingdom.
- C. And to the one who does not have salvation and eternal life in Christ...even what life he has on earth...will one day be taken away as he or she is held to account for their sin.
- D. The blood of Jesus saves us. His sacrifice is God's first gift to the man or woman who is lost in sin. If you will not receive this gift even what little you have will one day be lost when you are separated from God and His life for eternity in hell.
- E. It is as if Jesus is saying here, "You could have at least received my gift and done something for the work of the Kingdom on earth...just anything at all!" But, you didn't. You just buried the gift, never allowed it to have any place in your life and so you remain dead to me, my Kingdom
- F. **The greatest question you will ever answer is what will you do with Jesus? What will you do with the gift of God who came to save the world.**

G. “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

H. The Master is distributing gifts and talents...the first gift is the greatest and most important one of all. Unless you receive this gift all others will ultimately be held from you.

I. Unless you receive salvation from your sin and eternal life in Christ you will never measure up. When your life is held to account you will face eternal separation from God and what the Bible calls the Second death.

I. Talents

A. Once we are saved, we receive talents (money) and gifts as well as abilities to be used for the Kingdom. God calls us to different responsibilities and offers us various opportunities. What we do with them matters because we will be held to account for how we used or managed them.

B. Money — The story we read today is primarily speaking about money. We can extrapolate other principles and discuss the value of the lesson for other areas of our life but this story is primarily dealing with money.

C. Talent — The value of a talent was about the average of 60 day’s pay. So it was a good chunk of change.

- D. God will hold us to account for the way we use our gifts, talents and MONEY for the Kingdom of God. The choice is ours to make. We can do whatever we want to do with them. But someday, on the day when every person's life is judged...and Christians will face a judgement for how they managed God's gifts while living on earth...we will be held to account.
- E. **“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.” ..David Livingstone.**
- F. Are you investing your life so that the Master is receiving a return on His investment in you? Are you offering back to Him what He has given to you?
- G. Are you cooperating with His work and making yourself a part of His ambitions? OR are you making everything about yourself... your own ambitions, pleasures and desires?
- H. **The simple question is this...Are you building a kingdom for self with the resources God has given so you be a part of building His kingdom?**
- I. Here is one of the greatest of all tragedies and one which will cause a great deal of regret on the day of judgement for many

Christians...they have stolen God's kingdom investment in their life to enrich themselves.

J. How much time and money do you give back to God each day and week? How much attention does God receive from you?

K. The greatest joy and blessing of life is participating in God's life...Being a part of what He is doing in the world. Money, things, pleasures...they pale in comparison to the joy available to the one who would offer themselves to God and His work on earth.

L. This is a very very true statement...You cannot out give God...There is no greater joy than life in Him...There is nothing which lasts except that which you do with Him.

M. How are you using your life for God's Kingdom?

1. **Time** — “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.” There is not one single thing you and I have that did not come from God. Even that which we believe to have earned was first created and given by Him. Our life itself is a gift from His heart...we were an idea that He made into flesh by His spoken word. How many of your minutes, hours and days belong to Him?
2. **Talents and gifts** — Are you a teacher who won't teach, a singer who won't sing? Are you a servant who won't serve?

What has God given you? What are you good at? Have you given these back to God?

3. **Money** — There is not one thing we own. Everything we have is on loan and will one day move from our hand into the hand of another. What you do in the meantime is an investment into the temporal or eternal. Every penny you give toward the Kingdom work of God will reap an eternal blessing and reward. That is what this parable is saying

N. **Reward** — If you will invest in the Kingdom you will receive a blessing...Bigger, greater and richer things than anything you have yet to experience...Greater rewards and bigger responsibilities...greater opportunities to enjoy God by participating in what He is doing.

I. Conclusion

A. Once, a man said, "If I had some extra money, I'd give it to God, but I have just enough to support myself and my family." And the same man said, "If I had some extra time, I'd give it to God, but every minute is taken up with my job, my family, my clubs, and what have you--every single minute." And the same man said, "If I had a talent I'd give it to God, but I have no lovely voice; I have no special skill; I've

never been able to lead a group; I can't think cleverly or quickly, the way I would like to." And God was touched, and although it was unlike him, God gave that man money, time, and a glorious talent. And then He waited, and waited, and waited.....And then after a while, He shrugged His shoulders, and He took all those things right back from the man, the money, the time and the glorious talent. After a while, the man sighed and said, "If I only had some of that money back, I'd give it to God. If I only had some of that time, I'd give it to God. If I could only rediscover that glorious talent, I'd give it to God." And God said, "Oh, shut up." And the man told some of his friends, "You know, I'm not so sure that I believe in God anymore."

B. Herein lies the truth of the parable Jesus spoke on that day 2000 years ago. God has given you wealth, health, time and talents to give...to use for His Kingdom...to make a life of joy, adventure and excitement as you join in the journey and mission of His purposes for your time here on earth.

C. But...should you choose not to use them for the Kingdom... even what you have will be taken from you. There are a great many men and women who are today penniless, unhappy and unfulfilled lives simply because they spent their wealth, talents and time...on themselves.

- D. There are many lives that have been cut short...joy and excitement lost...adventure cut short...because God was cheated and robbed of the investment He had made in lives He created for His Kingdom sake.
- E. How do you use your time, wealth and gifts?
- F. Does your heart genuinely belong to God? Will a close inspection of your life prove it?**
- G. What does God want?
- H. God wants everything. He wants the whole of your life. He wants to be the most important Person in your life. He wants the whole of who you are. All of your gifts, money, time and attention belong to Him. You and I are completely at His disposal...period.**