



Read the Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

"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. 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!'

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.'

Matthew 25:14 (NIV)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

Understanding the Imagery:

The word "it" refers to the Kingdom of God. How would you define the Kingdom of God?



Who is the man going on a journey?

Who are the servants?

What is the property he entrusted to our care?

What are some implications of this passage with regard to our lives?

Matthew 25:15 (NIV)

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.

What is the significance of the owner giving his servants different amounts of money?

Should the person who received two talents be envious of the one who received five?

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Matthew 25:16-19 (NIV)

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. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

Why might the man with the one talent have buried it in the ground, rather than investing it?



What is God's business?

What is our normal perspective regarding how we use our resources?

Matthew 25:20 (NIV)

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!'

What do you note about the response to the two servants?

What are the implications for us if we use the resources God has given us primarily for his purposes?

Matthew 25:24-30 (NIV)

"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.'

What did this servant fear? What was wrong his perspective?



He questioned:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

In what ways are we sometimes like this third servant?

Was not the master's response a bit harsh?

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:18-20 (NIV)

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

How do you feel you are presently using the resources God has given you for his purposes?

What would be some examples of "good fruit" and "bad fruit" when it comes to how we use our resources?

What personal struggles do we face as we try to surrender our resources to the will of God?



What are some practical ways we can ensure that we will hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant”?

Take a practical look at how you budget your resources.

How much of my time each week is devoted to building the kingdom of God?

Ministry: Is there some significant way I contribute to the church's effectiveness?

What does my financial budget reveal about how passionate I am to see God's kingdom built?

Can I free up more of the resources God has given me to advance his kingdom?

Am I quick to let my home resources (tools, car, rooms, etc.) be used in ways that build the kingdom of God, showing kingdom love to others?

Is there some tangible way I can share what I have to help with others who have less?



New Testament (27 books)				
History (5)	Paul's Letters to Churches (9)	Paul's Letters to Individuals (4)	Others' Letters (8)	Prophecy (1)
Matthew Mark Luke John Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude	Revelation

1 TIMOTHY – PHILEMON

- 1 Timothy:** Some false teachers have found their way into leadership of the church in Ephesus. Paul writes to authenticate Timothy's authority to establish proper leadership in the church and to encourage him to fight the good fight.
- 2 Timothy:** Paul writes his last letter from prison as an encouragement to Timothy to continue ministering despite persecution and hardship. He warns that the last days will be marked by increased godlessness.
- Titus:** Paul writes this letter to a young pastor named Titus on the island of Crete. He encourages Titus to continue establishing spiritual leadership in the towns.
- Philemon:** Paul encountered a runaway slave by the name of Onesimus who eventually becomes a Christ follower. Now Paul sends Onesimus back (at the risk of being put to death) to his master, Philemon, who also claims to be a Christ follower. Paul's letter is the ultimate in tact and diplomacy that encourages Philemon to now consider Onesimus as more than a slave, but as a brother in Christ.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 1</p> <p>Hebrews 13:1-6 (NIV) <i>Keep on loving each other as brothers. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. ⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ⁶ So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"</i></p>	<p>Does my life reflect a love for others?</p> <p>Those in prison were believers who were put there for their faith in Jesus Christ. Do I support and encourage other believers when they are going through difficult times?</p> <p>Are my relationships pure?</p> <p>Do I keep wishing I had more wealth? Does that motivate me to try and get "easy" money without working for it (lotteries, gambling, etc.)?</p> <p>How does remembering God's presence help me in each of these areas?</p>	<p>TEACH REFUTE CORRECT TRAIN</p> <p>What can you apply?</p>

In the space below write out the 4 New Testament letters Paul wrote to individuals.

1T _____

2T _____

T _____

P _____



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 2</p> <p><i>Psalms 23:1-6 (NLT)</i> <i>The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.</i></p>	<p>If you know this passage well, it may be tempting to miss the impact it can have.</p> <p>Do I trust that Jesus will actually lead me?</p> <p>Do I trust he will provide for my every need?</p> <p>Do I trust he can walk me through to the other side of a dark valley?</p> <p>Do I really believe God is strategizing how to provide and care for me?</p> <p>Do I believe God wants to bless me?</p> <p>How comforting is it to know my eternal future is secure?</p>	<p>TEACH REFUTE CORRECT TRAIN</p> <p>What can you apply?</p>

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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Deuteronomy 8:10-18 (NIV) <i>When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. ¹⁷ You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.</i></p>	<p>It is tempting to think I am the one who provides all I need. What does God have to say about this?</p> <p>Do I have a tendency to think I am self-sufficient?</p> <p>Do I tend to view my wealth as something I made happen with my own hands?</p> <p>Do I sometimes forget to praise God for every blessing I have?</p> <p>Can I confess that it is God who has given me everything and that I am fully dependent on him for life?</p> <p>How can I express a greater trust and dependence on God?</p>	<p>TEACH REFUTE CORRECT TRAIN</p> <p>What can you apply?</p>



In the space below write out the 4 New Testament letters Paul wrote to individuals.

1T _____

T _____

2T _____

P _____



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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 4</p> <p>1 Kings 3:5-14 (NIV) <i>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." ⁶ Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷ "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for--both riches and honor--so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. ¹⁴ And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."</i></p>	<p>If God said you could ask him to give you anything, what would you ask for?</p> <p>Why was God pleased with what Solomon asked for?</p> <p>Jesus tells us you can ask God for anything. What are you asking for?</p>	<p>TEACH REFUTE CORRECT TRAIN</p> <p>What can you apply?</p>

In the space below write out the 4 New Testament letters Paul wrote to individuals.



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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 5</p> <p><i>Ecclesiastes 2:3-11 (NIV)</i> <i>I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.</i></p> <p><i>⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.</i></p> <p><i>¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.</i></p>	<p>What is my life spent building?</p> <p>What projects have I undertaken thinking they would give me a sense of accomplishment and significance?</p> <p>What pleasures have I pursued thinking they would give me fulfillment, but didn't?</p> <p>Is my life still focused on striving for comfort, control, pleasure or significance?</p> <p>What is it that gives my life meaning?</p>	<p>TEACH REFUTE CORRECT TRAIN</p> <p>What can you apply?</p>



In the space below write out the 5 historical books, 9 Pauline letters to churches, and 4 Pauline letters to individuals.

Historical Books

Paul's Letter to Churches

Paul's Letter to Individuals
