

## Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Parable of the Talents

Last time...Jesus continued His “2<sup>nd</sup> Coming warning” to His disciples

The Parable of the Ten Virgins, the main point of which was

- readiness
- watching

for His sudden return

This time...the warning to His disciples continues still

Jesus repeatedly forewarned His disciples about the end of His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming (impending)

Mark 8:31	Caesarea Philippi
Mark 9:9-12	after Transfiguration
Mark 9:30-32	end of ministry in Galilee
Mark 10:32-34	end of ministry in Perea

Jesus is repeatedly forewarning His disciples about readiness before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

Matt 24:36-51	faithful wise servants vs evil servants
Matt 25:1-13	wise virgins vs faithful virgins

Matt 25:14-30

### **Matt 25:14-30**

v14 as a man...servants...goods:

as...this is another parable

A parable is

- “as” or “like
- to teach a main point
- a “dark saying”, a “hard saying” requiring faith to understand
- interpreted by the Author/Scripture, not man/man’s intellect

a man travelling into a far country...Jesus Christ returning to heaven (future)

Luke 19:11-12 *ff* Parable of the Ten Pounds

Luke 20:9 *ff* Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen  
(both directed at unbelieving Israel)

called his own servants...Jesus is Master, Lord of all; we belong to Him

delivered unto them his goods...while He is gone, He entrusts us with His  
valuables/property

v15 five...two...one...several ability:

The distribution of talents, a monetary weight:

- by the sovereign will of the Master who knows His servants, every servant
- according to their individual ability

The distribution of talents is not equal numerically/quantitatively...

does that mean the servants are not equal, that some servants are better than others?

Good: only God is good (Matt 19:16-17)

Without God, none of us are good (Rom 7:18)

Better: Jesus Christ is better (Epistle to Hebrews, 12x)

Without Jesus, none of us are better than anyone (Rom 3:10, 23)

Jesus is Lord of all (Acts 10:36)

The servants are equal, their God-given capabilities are different,  
speaking to the creative genius of the Creator

The bigger number is not indicative of “better”, only different by the sovereign will of the Lord (1 Thes 5:18)

v16-18 traded...gained...hid:

Rather than looking at the number of talents, look at the verbs –  
the response of the servants, what they did with their Master’s goods

- Servant 5 traded...toiled, labored, ministered  
 (“occupy” in Luke 19:13), according to his individual ability
- Servant 2 gained...increased, according to his individual ability
- Servant 1 hid...concealed, kept secret, did nothing with his individual ability

v19 cometh and reckoned:

After a long time...no man knowing how long  
the lord came...just as He said He would, His coming was a certainty  
reckoned with his servants...tallied, computed, settled accounts with

For the servants, this is a day of...reckoning

v20-23 I have gained...Well done...enter:

Servant 5's reckoning:

"I received 5 and have gained/increased another 5,  
according to my given ability."

"Well done"...

the Lord's commendation/praise for Servant 5

"Good (Godly, obedient) and faithful (trustworthy) servant"...

the Lord's testimony (Matt 10:32, Matt 24:45-47, Matt 25:2-4)

"You have been faithful over a few (puny) things, I will make you ruler  
(authority) over many (much) things"...

the Lord's reward (Luke 16:10-12).

"Enter into the joy of your Lord"

- Heb 12:2

Phil 1:29

Phil 3:7-11

the labor to gain involved suffering

Acts 14:19-22

1 Thes 1:5-6, 9-10

one of 1<sup>st</sup> Epistles written

1 Thes 2:14-20

2 Thes 1:4-5

- Life eternal (body not made with hands, eternal in the heavens)
- His Kingdom (Matt 24:42-51)
- His marriage (Matt 25:1-13)

Servant 2's reckoning:

Apart from his individual ability, a carbon copy of Servant 5's

Faithfulness is rewarded equally by the Lord

The Lord's measure of "success" is faithfulness, not numbers

All the "numbers" belong to Him, faithfulness belongs to us

v24-27 I knew...hard man...I was afraid:

Servant 1's reckoning:

"I knew"...perceived with the 5 senses and one's intellect/reasoning

"You are a hard man"...severe because you say severe things

(hard sayings, dark sayings)

Your ways and thoughts are so different than mine!

Q: Does Jesus say hard things? Yes

Is Jesus a hard/severe man? No

He has displayed boundless compassion and love

He is about to be led as a lamb to the slaughter

Are His ways different than ours?

Radically; supernatural and supernaturally natural

“I was afraid”...fear vs faith

I was not willing to labor/toil/minister your way...  
it involves suffering e.g. denial of Self

2 Tim 1:7 sound mind = mind of Christ (Author of faith)

1 John 4:10, 16-19

Servant 1 “knew about” but did not know (in right relationship  
with) the Master

“Wicked (evil) and slothful (tardy/too late, idle/lazy) servant”...

No commendation from the Lord for Servant 1, but condemnation

The Lord’s testimony (Matt 10:33, Matt 24:48, Matt 25:3)

“You knew”...had knowledge

”knew/know”, which is greater than “perceive”

“You should have given my money to the bankers so that now I would  
have mine plus interest (earned by “working” money)”

What is the Lord’s reward for Servant 1?

v28-30 Take...give...has...given...has not...taken:

The Lord’s reward for Servant 1:

1. Take My valuable possession away from the wicked and give it to the  
good and faithful servant so it will gain/increase the most

Everyone that has (My riches) will be given more, unto a  
superabundance (Eph 3:20)

Everyone that has not (My riches) will lose everything  
(Matt 16:21-25)

2. Throw the “useless” servant (like a lamp without oil) into  
outer darkness

The Lord’s reward for the un-faithful is...the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

Every person has different abilities, according to the sovereign will and genius of  
our Creator

But the Lord expects the very same thing from every person – faithfulness

What are among the valuable possessions, the riches, of the Creator God entrusted to everyone, some of which who are faithful and others who are unfaithful?

- physical life...one heartbeat at a time
  - food and drink to sustain it
  - breath (Dan 5:23)
  - sleep (Ps 127:2) to refresh it
- time...an appointed number of days to “get right” with the Creator
- love (John 3:16)
- talents/abilities/skills
- money and possessions (Ps 24:1, 2 Cor 4:1-2)
- blessings (sunshine and rain, Matt 5:45)
- mercy
- faith (Heb 12:2, Rom 12:3)
- longsuffering (1 Tim 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, 15)
- revelation of Himself (Ps 19:1-3, Rom 1:18-22, 28)
- conviction of sin (John 8:9, John 16:7-11)

And to those riches is added, by the preaching of The Gospel (Rom 1:16-17),

- repentance (2 Tim 2:24-25)
- reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-21, Eph 2:8-9)
- Life (John 1:4, John 5:24, Matt 19:17)
- Light (John 8:12, 1 John 1:5, Col 1:13)
- fellowship with the Father and His Son and His Family (1 John 1:3)

And with those riches, while being ready and watching for the return of Jesus Christ, we are to

1. Believe (John 6:28-29, Heb 11:6)
2. Surrender our will to the Father's (Rom 8:29)
3. Share the Love and Grace of God (Luke 19:10), the Giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17)

Servant 5 and Servant 2 did all, enduring the suffering and despising the shame  
Servant 1 did none, not willing to deny Self, pick up his cross and follow Jesus

## **Application**

The simple truth, the main point, of the Parable of the Talents:

The Lord expects servants entrusted with His riches/gifts (every person) to live profitable/productive lives, thereby increasing those riches in the world

Increase (laboring/toiling/ministering with) is expected,  
preservation (hiding, keeping secret, doing nothing with) is not accepted

Faith yields life

Faithfulness yields increase

The Lord rewards with entry into the kingdom of heaven

Unbelief/fear yields death

Unfaithfulness yields fearful hiding

The Lord rewards with outer darkness, the 2<sup>nd</sup> death

Believer

Jesus Christ has purchased us with His own blood

We are not our own, we are His own

Acts 20:28

1 Cor 6:19-20

Jesus is challenging us, again, to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith  
(2 Cor 13:5)

What does my life say about Jesus Christ?

2 Cor 4:1-7

Is the Gospel hid (believe not) or shining (believe)

2 Cor 5:14-15

Does His love for me stir me to live for Him?

What will Jesus Christ say to me?

Enter into the joy of your Lord

2 Cor 4:14 – 5:10

Phil 3:20-21

Or

I never knew you

The Lord wants to use me in His work of salvation

Am I industriously faithful and useful or lazy/slothful/useless in His ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-21)?

- my spouse
- my kids
- my extended family
  
- believers
- unbelievers
  
- friends
- enemies
- strangers
  
- at work
- in my neighborhood
- at Church

What have I done with what God has given me?

Have I used what He has given me to multiply His work/Life  
or have I selfishly hoarded it all to myself  
or have I done nothing?

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

How I long to hear this!

What else matters?

The world has nothing to compare in value