

Comparing the Parables of the Talents and Minas

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Jesus told two parables which were similar, but also different in some ways. Listed below are the differences and similarities between the Parable of Talents (Matt. 25:14-30) and the Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:11-27).

| Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25) | Parable of the Minas (Luke 19) |
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| Master goes on a journey | Nobleman goes to a far country to receive kingdom |
| Master calls 3 slaves | Nobleman calls 10 servants |
| DIFFERENT AMOUNTS GIVEN Master gives them 5, 2, and 1 talent, each according to their ability | THE SAME AMOUNTS GIVEN Nobleman gives all 10 one mina each with no regard to their ability |
| A talent was a bag of gold & silver coins equaling 20 years of wages | A mina (also called "pounds") was equivalent to 100 days of wages |
| The 5-talent slave and the 2-talent slave both doubled what they were given | One servant produced 10 minas from his one mina. Another servant produced 5 minas from his mina. |
| THE SAME DEGREE OF REWARD The 5-talent slave and the 2-talent slave both received the exact same praise from the master: "Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful over a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter in the joy of your master." | DIFFERENT DEGREES OF REWARD: The servant producing 10 minas was rewarded with being given authority over 10 cities. The servant producing 5 minas was rewarded with being given authority over 5 cities. Nobleman said, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little thing, have authority over (10, 5) cities |
| MISJUDGED MASTER'S INTENTIONS The 1-talent slave said the master was a hard man, reaping where he did not sow, and gathering where he scattered no seed. He was afraid and hid the talent in the ground. | MISJUDGED NOBLEMAN'S INTENTIONS The wicked servant said he feared the nobleman and he was a harsh man, collecting what he didn't deposit and reaping what he didn't sow. He was afraid and put the money in a handkerchief. |
| Master says he should have put it in the bank to make interest. | Nobleman says he should have put it in the bank to make interest. |
| Talent was taken from the wicked, lazy slave and given to the one with 10 talents. | Mina was taken from the wicked servant and given to the one with 10 minas. |
| The worthless slave is cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. | The nobleman's enemies, who did not want him to reign over them, are slain before him. |

Why did Jesus change the details in the two parables? Perhaps to emphasize different truths in each. The Parable of the Talents accentuates the slaves' abilities. Although the 5-talent slave and the 2-talent slave had unequal abilities, they were equally pleasing to their master. How does this truth apply to us today? No matter what our level of ability, everyone has the same potential to please God.

The Parable of the Minas highlights the servants' faithfulness. They all received the same amount, but the one who produced 10 minas was the most faithful. The one who produced 5 minas was also faithful, but not as much as the other servant. Everyone decides how faithfully they will serve the Lord.

In both parables, those who were faithful servants were promoted to be in authority in the next life. I believe these parables teach that **rewards in heaven are actually joyful assignments we will have in the next life**. This explains the phrases "you were faithful over a few things (on earth), I will put you in charge of many things (in heaven)" and "have authority over ten cities." I give a more detailed explanation in my book [Making Today Count for Eternity](#).

Why were the one talent and the one mina taken away from the lazy servants and given to the most faithful servants? Apparently the reward/assignment that would have gone to the lazy slave is added to the most faithful servant as a bonus. Each eternal assignment must be accounted for. In both parables, those who hated the master and nobleman were severely judged. The place of outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth is a reference to hell.

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