

# **Parable of the Talents**

## **Matthew 25:14-30**

This parable is one of the most well-known parables by JESUS CHRIST and **one of the least understood of the parables.**

Almost everyone interprets this parable as teaching **faithfulness in works, performance, faithfully using the ‘talents’ that God gives** to believers. And that is exactly why JESUS CHRIST worded this parable as He does.

Even the wonderful Alfred Plummer says that while the parable of the 10 Virgins says nothing of working for the bridegroom, this parable teaches while waiting they should **work** for the coming of the owner—Messiah.

Ok, why so many wrongly interpret this parable? They all seem to interpret it the same way; that is they all see the **simple obvious lesson**, but they all miss the **spiritual point** JESUS CHRIST is making.

Recall our proper understanding of parables.

Parables are used *not* to make the point simple but are used so that many would miss it.

This passage both explains and interprets the parable of Talents. We shall not rush through this very important and least understood of parables by JESUS CHRIST.

Matthew 13:10-13

10 *And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”*

11 *Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.*

12 *“For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.*

13 *“Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”*

14 *“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.*

15 *“To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.*

16 *“Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.*

17 *“In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more.*

18 *“But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

- 19 *“Now after a long time the master of those slaves \*came and \*settled accounts with them.*
- 20 *“The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’*
- 21 *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’*
- 22 *“Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’*
- 23 *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;*

*enter into the joy of your master.'*

24 *"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.*

25 *'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'*

26 *"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.*

27 *'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.*

28 *'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'*

29 *“For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.*

30 *“Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

We begin to get our clue as to the meaning of the parable from the verse fourteen:

14 *“For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.*

You will note that “*it is*” is not in the original but the Greek Conjunction, translated “*For*”, draws from what preceded –a discussion about the coming of the Messiah-King to His Millennial Kingdom, promised to David, still answering the disciples question in verse 24: concerning His coming to set up His kingdom.

*For just like a man to go on a journey* KJ—traveling into a far country. The parable is easy, but spiritually it is referring to JESUS CHRIST **leaving** Israel in Acts 1, and journeying to Heaven to Throne of God and being royally seated at the right hand of God.

*who called his own slaves* the word *slaves* is **doulos** which is used throughout New Testament for apostles or servants – slaves of JESUS CHRIST through whom GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT inspired the WORD OF GOD.

In the Lexicon ***“a slave, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other.”***

**Now we come to the correct spiritual understanding of this parable.**

*and entrusted his possessions to them*

Do you have any prize possession?

That is what is being talked about here.

*Entrusted* Aorist Active Indicative of the Greek word meaning to **deliver over**. This is a very important word in our parable.

It has four specific meanings applicable here.

- (1) It means to entrust someone with something most precious.
- (2) It means to turn over to someone a great deal of **power**;
- (3) It carries with it a great deal of **responsibility** of someone;
- (4) It conveys a great deal of **authority**.  
It is not that they **deserve** this authority and responsibility and power but that it is given according to **grace** and his plans.

### *Entrusted his possessions*

I will combine this with the talents.

15 *“To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.*

*Talent:* Its root meaning is **scales**. Later it came to refer to something weighed, hence, a **talent** = a certain fixed weight for gold or silver.



Today, unfortunately for the understanding of this parable we use this word to indicate various abilities or talents; but be sure you understand that this Greek word had no such association for Jesus, nor for the disciples. It simply was used to denote a nice some of wealth.

**So we have to stop and ask ourselves what did God, JESUS CHRIST consider as valuable?**

Certainly not the abilities –talents- of mankind.  
Certainly not material wealth like gold or silver.

**So what is valuable to God?**

**The Word of God** is more precious than gold or silver. We are to understand the talents as portions of the Word of God.

He (God) has entrusted His most precious property to various servants.

Now to show that this all goes together—that is chapter 24-25, lets go back and read through 24:42-49

42 “*Therefore be on the alert,* (the Word of God and the Filling of the Holy Spirit causes us to be alert) *for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*  
(Second Advent –ending the Tribulation)

43 “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

44 “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will.*

45 “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

Giving food is the giving of spiritual food, teaching of the WORD OF GOD—pertinent sections of the WORD OF GOD.

46 “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. (Teaching pertinent doctrines)

47 “Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. (In the Millennial Kingdom)

48 *“But if that evil slave* (unbelieving religious crowd)  
*says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a*  
*long time,’*

49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; (turns against believers growing in the WORD

OF GOD, and going along with the world in its drunkenness of power and worldly desires.)

#### Matthew 25:14-15

14 For *it is* just like a man God-man, JESUS CHRIST *about* to go on a journey, to the throne of God who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. He entrusted them with His most precious possessions—the Word of God

15 “To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

Talents here does not refer in any way to abilities of man, believer or unbeliever. It refers to what is precious to God and what is pertinent to JESUS CHRIST teaching.

Psalms 138:1

*thanksgiving for the Lord's favor*

(is not in the original but that it is by David is in the manuscript.)

In this one Psalm, David is. . .

- (1) Giving thanks and praise to God
- (2) For the high and unequaled promise, which in God's love He has promised to David, indeed to all Israel.
- (3) For God's faithfulness in bringing the promise to reality.

Psalms 138:1

1 / (David) *will give You thanks with all my heart;*

(with all I am, God's blessing fills his whole heart, that thanksgiving comes from the whole heart. Have you ever thanked God from your whole heart? Not for just some one thing but your whole being was thankful?

*I will sing praises to You before the gods.*

I don't know why the translators translates this plural in some context and translates the same word in the singular

as in Genesis 1:1.

Genesis 1:1

1 *In the beginning God created...* (this is exactly the same Hebrew word, and it makes such good sense)—*I will sing praise to you- YHWH before Elohiym.*

2 *I will bow down toward Your holy temple*

Ok, think, the Temple made with hands has not yet been constructed! Yet this is constantly on David's mind:

Psalms 5:7

7 *But as for me, by means of Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.*

Back to Psalms 138:2

2 *I will bow down toward your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth;* (It is not

uncommon for David to combine His love and His truth.)

**Now we come to what is pertinent  
for our study of  
the Parable of the Talents**

*For You have magnified Your word according  
to all Your name.* (this is so beautiful but it is even  
more beautiful in the original.)

You will note in the NASV margin:

*You have magnified your promise* (actually)

*You have magnified your word of promise* (If we

understand this as **word of promise**, What promise  
**does David have in mind** that will have impact in our  
Lord's words in Matthew 25 in the parable of the Talents?

The ***promise*** that David has in mind is found in one of the most  
neglected chapters of the bible: 2 Samuel 7

2 Samuel 7 is indeed the 5 talents given in the parable of the  
talents. Please remember the parable of the Talents deals with  
His Second coming and the establishment of His promised  
Kingdom.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

Spiritually the Parable of the Talents  
is **understanding every glorious promise**  
that will be fulfilled by His Coming.

Yes, it requires all this understanding to spiritually understand the Parable of the Talents.

This parable closes the Lord's teaching on His Coming and its impact to Israel. The remainder of Matthew 25 will briefly discuss the judgment against the Gentiles at His Coming.

I want you to think of the primary promise of the WORD OF GOD that will be instituted by JESUS CHRIST upon His return to the earth.

**He will set up  
the promised throne of David  
in Jerusalem**

To get an idea of the impact of the Talents which you will recall are precious possessions of the owner, we will read through the great chapter of 2 Samuel 7.

2 Samuel 5 David is given by God victory over the Philistines.

2 Samuel 6 The Ark of the Covenant comes to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 7 House of God is Promised as House of David.

**David desires to build a temple for the Lord  
But the Lord will promise to build David a house**

2 Samuel 7: ***David Plans to Build a Temple***

<sup>1</sup> *Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies,*

The phrase *the Lord had given him David rest* means that now David can pursue the crown of his life, to build a temple for the Lord. This chapter 7 has been called “the climax of the whole Davidic tradition.”

This phrase of God giving David rest is of great importance, **it is now time for God to Act in the history of Israel. And He will begin with a PROMISE of Throne**



**of David, in the far future. This is constantly on David's mind, constantly on the mind of all Israelites and in God's faithfulness.**

- <sup>2</sup> *that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, permanent dwelling but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains."* As a nomad who constantly moving about
- <sup>3</sup> *Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you."* As we will see, the Lord is with David but not in the sense Nathan thinks and now we learn something about the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- <sup>4</sup> *But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,*
- <sup>5</sup> *"Go and say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD, "Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?"* The Hebrew word here means to dwell permanently

6 *“For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle.*

In contrast this Hebrew word means to temporally dwell.

This is theologically important in the renting of the curtain when JESUS CHRIST died on the cross, so that – *theologically* He now is open to the whole world.

7 *“Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ’*

From these verses we get a hint of the torn curtain when JESUS CHRIST died on the cross.

*God’s Covenant with David ; David’s eternal kingdom promised* Here is what is a precious possession of God.

8 *“Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.*

From shepherd to King, just as with his anti-type:

JESUS CHRIST and please remember all the sins

and failures of David, yet God is faithful to His Word of

Promise, just as He is faithful to Israel in spite of all the

sins and failures of His people.

9 *“I have been with you wherever you have gone and I have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.*

10 *“I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and I will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked Gentiles afflict them any more as formerly,*

11 *even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. (Time of the Gentiles) **The LORD** also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. (head of a dynasty.)*

I hope you are beginning to see just how important, how vital 2 Samuel 7 is the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST.

And to those given 5 Talents are the ones who understand all history of the Jews in the Plan of God, and teach it, especially in the time of the Tribulation.

Now watch the historical progress to David's successor:  
**JESUS CHRIST**

- 12 *“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, (singular refers to JESUS CHRIST) *who will come forth from you, and I will establish his (JESUS CHRIST) kingdom.**
- 13 *“He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

(JESUS CHRIST at Second Advent.)

But first comes the work of the First Advent.

14 *“I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, (on the cross) I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, (Jews and Romans.)*

15 *but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (David)*

16 *“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”’ ”*

17 *In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.*

***David's Prayer of thanksgiving for the Promise***

18 Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, this is most likely the tent where the Ark

has been placed and he said, “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?

19 “And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future.

Does this sound familiar from our study in Matthew 25?

David and Israel are given the assurance of an eternal Kingdom. God has given to David the ability to look into the distant future, for which David is most thankful.

*And this is the custom of man, O Lord GOD.*

20 *“Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord GOD!*

21 *“For the sake of Your word, of promise and according to Your own heart, What a beautiful phrase from David to His Lord. You have done all*

*this greatness to let Your servant know.* Again, know the unknowable future.

22 *“For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.* The promise of a certain

future for Israel...this should give them all hope and this is what they all should be proclaiming even the one given one talent.

23 *“And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, there is no nation like Israel in all history whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people first Advent and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for You and awesome things for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods?*

First choosing them, then calling them, then redeeming them, then never departing from them and finally restoring them as a great eternal kingdom.

24 *“For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, have become their God.*

David praises God for all He is doing for Israel.

25 *“Now therefore, O LORD God, the word of promise that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm it forever, and do as You have spoken,*

26 *in order that Your name may be magnified forever, by saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel’; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You.*

This will become an historical reality at the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation.

27 *“For You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house’; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. knowing the WORD OF GOD gives courage in prayer.*



- 28 *“Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words of promise are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.*
- 29 *“Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”*

**Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus**