

## Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Last Week We saw...

1. Introduced Why This Parable Is So Misunderstood by noting Matthew 13:10-13 where Jesus tells why He speaks in parables;... **so that many will not know what He is teaching.**
2. We then noted that He is **not** speaking of working for the Lord, which is the way most people interpret this parable, as referring to 'talents' that believers have and using them for the Lord.
3. Then we noted that what He is referring to is to something that is most precious to Him, **which is His Word.**
4. Where we noted that in 24:45...where the faithful and sensible servant gave food at the proper time where food refers to the teaching of pertinent doctrine.
5. Here we noted Psalm 138:2 where we saw what is most precious to Him: *you have magnified your word of promise above your very name—* meaning God has placed His promises of Davidic

kingdom above His name, that is if He does not keep His promise of David's kingdom through His own Son then His name means nothing.

6. Then we look at the most neglected 2 Samuel 7 where we read of this promise to David.

This morning we now continue in the understanding of the Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14

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

*it is* is not in the original but the Greek conjunction translated

*for* is used to draw from what preceded: a discussion on the coming of the Messiah-King to His Millennial Kingdom, promised to David in 2 Samuel 7.

For just like a man to go on a journey

This is referring to Jesus Christ, Himself leaving Israel in Acts 1, and journeying to the third heaven to being seated at the right hand of God.

## who called his own slaves

the word slaves is ***doulos*** which is used throughout New Testament for the apostles or servants; slaves of JESUS CHRIST through whom God the Holy Spirit entrusted with the Word of God. What is interesting is that in the Lexicon, “a slave is one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other”.

Everyone ought to know that **every** Muslim is a slave of Allah, therefore, it behooves, us to know what Allah’s will is; and the will of Allah is for every Muslim to kill—murder—all infidels, that is everyone who does not believe in Allah.

While the will of God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is to love everyone and be a witness to the death and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST.

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

*Entrusted* Aorist Active Indicative of the Greek word meaning to deliver over *His possessions*

*Entrusted His possessions* this means to entrust someone with something most precious, but in this trust comes with a great deal of responsibility & authority.

**This is JESUS CHRIST entrusting His word with apostles when He leaves planet earth to go to the throne of God the Father.**

<sup>15</sup> *“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.* Remember that ***talents*** refers to a weight of money, not some skill or ability.

For example:

giving 5 to Paul, two to James or Peter and one to Jude.

*He gave* the Greek word means to give of one's own accord, in other words this giving is up to JESUS CHRIST, the recipients do not earn nor deserve this giving of what is valuable to JESUS CHRIST

*According to his own ability* the Greek word ability is the word ***dunamis*** –power- and carries a great number of nuances. Here it refers to sphere of influence!  
Example: Billy Graham had a great sphere of influence and power, while most of us have a very limited sphere of influence.

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

You will never see it in the NASV translation nor with KJ;  
both of these translations make it sound like the man is doing something.

We begin to get a clue from the NIV

*went out at once and put his money to work*

This translation is insightful, for it emphasizes who or what is

doing the work. Not the servant but that which has been invested to him.

Another translation: *invested it and it earned 5 more* or as the Weymouth translation: *employed employed them in business and earned 5 more.*

The point Jesus is making is that he has entrusted them with something precious. And what was precious that He entrusted to them? **The precious Word of God.**

Second point: who or what was doing the work?

Not the servant but that which had been entrusted to him, **THE WORD OF GOD did the work.**

Look at Isaiah 55:11

11 *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

but note it in context:

Isaiah 55:8

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.*

This is ever so clear when it comes to the interpretation of Scripture, when we try to interpret it by our thinking—which is why so many miss the correct understanding of the *Parable of the Talents*. It should be properly called ***The Parable of something Precious to God*** or ***The Parable of holy scripture***.

<sup>9</sup> *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways And My  
thoughts than your thoughts.*

What is precious in the heavens? Not the works of man but the power of the THE WORD OF GOD.

*My thoughts* where do we get the thoughts of God? *in His precious Word*. Do not be fearful of what man says, at what the Muslims say, at what the media says or what different countries say, but be ever mindful at *what says the Lord* & people please remember the place where we go to find the thoughts of God, is in His Word, the Holy Bible. And as more & more are leaving it, we are finding it all the more to be our shelter, our haven of rest.

<sup>10</sup> *“For as the rain and the snow come down from  
heaven, And do not return there without  
watering the earth And making it bear and*

*sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;* I pray you are beginning to catch on to the parable of Talents. It is what has been entrusted to them that is doing the work, not the servants. It is not the teacher of THE WORD OF GOD that gives you peace in your soul, or gives you Divine Guidance; it is the TRUTH that he teaches.

11 *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.* ok, let

us look at the third slave who rec. one talent—remember what he did? He hid the one talent.

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

He did not share it, give it to anyone, that they might be saved or even encouraged by THE WORD OF GOD. no, he hid it!

**Question:**

**What are you doing with the doctrine that is in your soul?**

**Are you hiding it ?**



or

Are you giving it out to others that they might  
be enriched with THE WORD OF GOD?

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to use it  
to guide you through the day?

Remember why is the dead sea, dead?

Fresh water flows into the dead sea 24 hours a day, so why is it  
dead? It has no outlet! Water cannot go out from it, it is dead.

Back to Isaiah 55:8-13

8 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are  
your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.*

9 *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So  
are My ways higher than your ways And My  
thoughts than your thoughts.*

10 *”For as the rain and the snow come down from  
heaven, And do not return there without  
watering the earth And making it bear and  
sprout, notice it is the WORD OF GOD that makes things  
sprout! And furnishing seed to the sower and  
bread to the eater; Here is the nourishment for  
everyone --THE WORD OF GOD*

11 *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

12 *“For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

13 *“Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the LORD,*

The production of doctrine will be a memorial to the Lord  
*For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.”*

That we are on the right track look back at...

Matthew 24:35

35 *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. The WORD OF GOD will be fulfilled! and this at His return to earth at the end of The Tribulation.*

Look at Isaiah 46:8

8 *“Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors.*

First note the three commands here:

***remember, be assured and recall***

Then remember the exhortations in Matthew 24 on speaking of His Coming:

***be alert, be sure and be ready***

JESUS CHRIST has warned them of His return!

Isaiah 46:9

9 “Remember the former things long past, *be assured*  
For I am God, and there is no other; *I am God,*  
and there is no one like Me, please do not believe  
those simple minded people who do not know the Word of  
God who try to tell you that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and  
Jacob is the same as Allah.—A lie!

10 *Declaring the end from the beginning,*

something neither Satan nor Allah can do *And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose* plan and will *will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'*; JESUS CHRIST reigning on David's throne.

11 *Calling a bird of prey from the east,* armies to take over Jerusalem *The man of My purpose from a far country.* Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire from Rome *Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.* This is part of the treasure entrusted to the servants in the Parable of Talents.

Now back to the **Parable of Talents** in Matthew 25

16 *"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. Or put his*

*money to work* or from the original *immediately going, the one receiving the five talents put them to work and gained five others.* People, this is a promise, the Word of God will not return void or empty.

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

Ok, this is easy, this servant put his two talents to work -- and they returned two more.

He took the Word of God and he dispersed it to those who would listen.

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

First note the progression in this verse. After receiving one talent, **grace of God** he does what many do with the grace they have received from Lord *he went away* this is in contrast with the first two servants who immediately went out and put their talents to work. But this one went away ok, you are going to like this!

Remember where all this study began?

Matthew 24:1 *Jesus came out from the temple* Here

this man *went away from using the Word of*

*God* the word used to describe going away of our

Lord from the temple:

**exerchomai** while the word used of this servant going away

**aperchomai** whether or not you know Greek, you can see that both of these words are from the same root word

***erchomai*** to come or to go, and this is no accident. We are to see something going on with the Lord going away from the temple, and we are to see something in this man going away with his one talent in hand.

The prefix in front of the word used of our Lord going away from the temple is the preposition ***apo*** which means from...***to go away from the temple*** and we noted there that this was exactly what He was doing spiritually not just physically.

Now, the prefix before the word used of the servant in our parable is ***ek*** meaning out—going out—**he takes himself out of service of the Lord.**

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

So first he goes away from using the Word of God; now we see what he does with it.

*and dug a hole in the ground*

*for the purpose to*

*hide his master’s money or treasure*

Throughout the Word of God they buried that which was *dead*. This servant considered the treasure of the Word of God as dead and buried it. He did not pay attention to even the gospel. He heard it then buried it.

**But the Word of God is alive and powerful...**

**the Word of God is living**

19 *“Now after a long time the master of those slaves \*came and \*settled accounts with them.*

*Now after a long time*

time is very important in this entire discourse of the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST.

Look back to 24:36

26 *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

or

verse 48

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

So here in this parable JESUS CHRIST makes the statement

19 *“Now after a long time the master of those slaves \*came and \*settled accounts with them.*

How long has it been already?

**Close to 2000 years** so add to that the time of **The Tribulation**, it has been a long time **but**

**He Is Faithful to His Word and He Will Return.**

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.’*

I think the most wonderful thing that the Lord could say to any of

us is: *well done my good and faithful servant.*

But let us remember the context—  
**what we do with the Word of God!**

**Well done** is an adverb but it’s reference depends on the context.

Here well done is in refer to what he did with the treasure of the Word of God entrusted to him and the same things is true of the next two adjectives: **good and faithful.**

*good* this adjective depends on the context:

good in the sense of benevolence toward others as we saw

when describing Joseph of Aramathia who was granted permission from Pilate to take the body of Jesus off the cross and bury Jesus in a tomb dug for himself.

So **good** in that context was that he was a benevolent man to his community in Jerusalem. But here we know the standard of being good, is the handling of something precious entrusted to him;... that is the Word of God. So he was good in what he did with the word of God.

Are you good with the Word of God you learn?

The next adjective: *Faithful*

This tells us right off this servant is the Filling of the Holy Spirit, for being faithful is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**Secondly** this tells us he was faithful with the Word of God entrusted to him.

That is, he was faithful in revealing it to others.

Remember 24:45

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?”*

Remember that means he fed them the Word of God—at the proper time: as to the circumstances going on in The Tribulation and the coming of the Messiah-King.

You were faithful with a few things, that which was entrusted to him I Jesus Christ will future--the Millennium put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

### **Inner joy is very important to the Lord.**

John 15:11

11 “*These things* pertinent doctrine *I have spoken to you* for your advantage so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is the result of walking – living by faith in the Holy Spirit.

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.’* Like the first this servant spread the doctrine entrusted to him to others and it did not return void.

x22 *“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.’*

Like the first this servant spread the doctrine entrusted to him to others and it did not return void.

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.’*

Please notice it is not a matter of how much they received but their faithfulness in spreading that to others, the reward is the same.

Verse 24 emphasizes the importance of your view of God. Your view of God will determine how you live each day. If your view of God is that you have to “do and do”, then that is the way you will live, but if your view is that “God is a God of Grace” then that is how you will live.

Some see God as saying:

**If you do for me I will do for you**

**Trust Me**

Others see God saying:

**I have done for you**

**Trust Me**

24 *“And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, This is the way a lot of people think about God. He is up there keeping score and He will come and get you if you step out of line. They have a hard severe God. To them you have to earn grace *reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed*. He sees God as demanding work! In order to sow you have to reap, in order to gather you have to scatter.*

25 ‘And I was afraid, people build up their false image of God so that they can fear Him. Many girls who lived in fear of their father will purposefully marry a man they fear. And this is what believers do with God, they want a God they have to fear so they develop a view of God that He is hard and should be feared. *and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.*’ In fear you do nothing!

**What is important here is that he did not go off and spend the money on himself.**

**Why not?**

**Because Jesus is not talking about money  
He is talking about the precious Word of God.**

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.*

Let us make a list of the **two types of people** in these two chapters

## Believers

Faithful and sensible

Five wise virgins

Good and Faithful

## Unbelievers

Evil

Five foolish virgins

Wicked

The Greek word for wicked is used here in refer to being wicked spiritually, that is he has conjured up a view of God that is just the opposite of what God is like then procedes to live under that kind of God. And the word *lazy* is one who refuses to live by faith and chooses to do nothing.

And the Lord uses his own argument against him

*you knew that / reap where / did not sow and gather where / scattered no seed.* So he should have at least laid it out there for anyone to partake of it.

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

Again that is the Word of God.

28 *‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’* In God’s plan rich get richer, *the more you learn of the Word of God*

*the richer you get* therefore, believers you want to be rich in the Word of God

- 29 *“For to everyone who has, insight into the truth of Scripture more shall be given, doctrine is built on doctrine and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.*

What he has, he has distorted and never saw the truth of the gospel so at the Great White Throne of Judgment at the end of the Millennium what he has, he will lose.

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

This is a real place for everyone who does not believe in Jesus as their Savior.

**How can a loving God cast His creatures into eternal darkness?**

This is the wrong question.

The real question is

***How can a perfectly righteous God,  
not cast every unRighteous creature into outer darkness?***



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And this question is answered by a truthful understanding of the Gospel. That God in His grace, love and mercy, sent His Son to pay the penalty of sin for everyone, then anyone who believes in His Son as their only Savior, God imputes to that person His +R, Perfect Righteousness; then He announces that that person is Justified forever.