

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Matt. 25: 14 - 30

INTRODUCTION

1. The parable teaches the necessity of watching and working in the kingdom of God.
2. The parable also teaches the necessity of faithfulness in all circumstances.

I. THE APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE

1. The man called his servants, delivered them his goods and then went into a far country.
2. The man represents CHRIST
 - (1) He has gone to heaven – Dan. 7: 13 - 14; Acts 1:11
 - (2) He will come again – Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7
3. The servants represent the membership of the church.
4. The talents represent the ability and wealth which has been entrusted in our hands.
5. We have been given life and opportunities
6. The New Testament has been given to instruct us as to how to use our time, talents and opportunities – II Tim. 3: 16 - 17; II Pet. 1:3
7. We owe a life of service to God – Rom. 12: 1 - 2

II. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TALENTS

1. Each servant received something.
 - (1) No person is without some ability to serve the Lord, that is responsible.
 - (2) One is responsible for the ability or talents he possesses.
2. The servants did not receive an equal number of talents
 - (1) One received five talents
 - (2) One received two talents
 - (3) One received one talent
3. Each servant received talents according to his ability – Matt. 25:15
 - (1) Their master did not impose upon them more than they could do.
4. Each member of the church has ability to work, but the ability and opportunities vary with the members.
 - (1) Some are born with sound bodies, but others are not so fortunate.
 - (2) Some have greater mental capacities than others have.
 - (3) Some are born in an atmosphere of culture and education, while others are born in poverty and ignorance.
 - (4) Some are born in Christians homes, while others are not.
 - (5) Some differ in their opportunity for using their talents.
 - (6) Some members have had greater opportunity to develop because of the congregation that they are a part of – some congregations have good leadership with well-planned programs of work, some others do not.
5. Each servant was given his talent – no servant was allowed a choice.

III. THE USE MADE OF THE TALENTS – Matt. 25: 16 - 18

1. The five talent man gained five talents more.
2. The two talent man gained two talents more.
3. The one talent man **HID** his talent.
 - (1) Though the man had only one talent, he was responsible for it.
4. God requires faithfulness – I Cor. 15: 58

IV. THE DAY OF RECKONING

1. The servants who received five and two talents doubled their capital – Matt. 25: 19 - 23
2. The Lord said, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant*" – Matt. 25:21
3. The servant with one talent was very displeasing to the Lord – Matt. 25: 26 - 30
 - (1) He had not been a dishonorable man
 - (2) He had not gambled away or spent his talent
 - (3) He had simply failed to use what he had – Matt. 25: 27 - 30
 - (4) One is unfaithful when he fails to be actively good.

V. THE PARABLE TEACHES:

1. That the Lord expects each person, regardless of his capacities, to work earnestly in the Kingdom.
2. That the Lord is displeased with slothfulness and wasted opportunities.
3. That the talents we have will increase or decrease, depending on the use of or lack of use of them.

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