

Title: Parable of the Talents

New Year

H 6

Text : Matthew 25:14-30

*Answer To

Matthew chapter 25 and beginning at Vs 14. We are continuing this great study called the Olivet Discourse. A discourse on Prophecy. The longest section of prophecy that Jesus ever gave as far as direct teaching. It covers two chapters - chapter 24 and 25.

Now, in chapter 24 in the first few verse we have a guide line to an understanding of these chapters. In Vs 3 the disciples ask ^{Jesus} three questions. One was: "When shall these things be." What things? Well, the things relating to the distruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. And the prophecy relating to that distruction is recorded in Luke 21. It is not recorded by Matthew.

Matthew is concerned with the last two questions: What shall be the sign of your coming; and the end of the age?

Again, please remember that the church, the body of christ, which began on the day of Pentecost and will will conclude when Christ meet us in the Air, at what is called the rapture of believers, ~~We are caught up out of this world to meet Christ in the Air,~~ ^{Jesus} ~~this~~ church is not known. ^{us} ~~It~~ ^{To The Disciple} It is not spoken of here in Matthew 24 and 25. The Age which Jesus is talking about ^{that} will end, is the Jewish age. The age which is part of what we are experiencing now, but will not reach its conclusion until the end of the 7 year period, known as the tribulation period. That will be the end of the Jewish age. And it will usher in the new age, which is called the Millimun...meaning: the 1000 year reign of Christ. The Kingdom of God set up on earth with Jesus Christ ruling on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

So, this discourse is **basical** concerned with Jewish people. This is very important **especial** to an understanding of this parable before us today.

Matthew 25:14-30 (read)

Let us bow for just a moment of prayer

The Parable of the talents is very close to the parable of the virgins. Let's just review that parable. In the first 13 verses of the 25 chapter, we have the parable of the 10 virgins. The subject is: Be prepared, for the bridegroom is coming.

Now, the thought involved is that of a Jewish wedding in which there are two phases separated by one year. The last phases in under discussion in Matthew 25, and that is, the bridegroom is coming and into the marriage at the home of the bride.

It was customary for the bride to come to the bridegroom's house beginning an engagement period. Now, these two events were separated by one year.

As a matter of fact this custom was so strong that it took, according to Jewish law, a written divorcement to separate the engagement of one year in length from the marriage itself

Now, the first thing that happens at the beginning of the engagement period is that the bride goes to the bridegroom's house to meet his parents. Then follows a year engagement... The marriage is final culminated when the bridegroom comes to the bride's house at the end of the year. And a big supper is held...

Now, some even like to see in this marriage a reference to the fact that when the rapture occurs, before the 7 years period of tribulation, the bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ, is going to take the bride to his house, we will be in heaven. Then, he will come back to this earth and be with his bride for a great marriage supper of the lamb.

Now, if you want to pull that out of this passage, fine. Personally, I don't see it. But, what is under discussion here is that last final phase of the ~~marriage~~ engagement period.

Now, there are 10 virgins. The discussion centers around the fact that five have oil for their lamps, that were prepared to go into this marriage. Five did not.

And these virgins are referring to people who are living during the tribulation period. And the idea is to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

Now, as I have indicated before, if we are to be ready for that event, how much more we should be ready, today, for an event that is not under discussion. And that is 7 years previous to this when Christ will come and meet us in the Air, and we will be caught up to be with Him. *Are you ready?*

~~It is that is the church will be...~~

So, in this case of the virgins, the lesson is on "waiting for your Lord."

Being Ready. When you come to the talents, the lesson is on working for the Lord. Occupying until he comes. What are servants to be doing? That is the lesson of the talents.

Now, there is another parable that Jesus told and some people say it is the same thing. It is not....It is found in the gospel of Luke and it is called the parable of the pounds. And it is not teaching ~~the~~ the same thing as the parable of the talents.

We are concerned, only, with the parable of the talents.

(10/12) Now, first of all, what were the talents .

What we can understand from coinage and systems of weights, in that day, a talent was worth six thousand denarii, the most common Roman coin exchange. A denarii was one day's wages...So, you can figure it out for yourself. There is a lot of wealth involved in one talent.

So, this talent was worth six thousand denari.

We, are also told in this story that there was a man who was Traveling into a far country. The man, obviously is Jesus Christ, the son of God.

And there are servants and there is something ~~he~~ he is giving to the servants.

(20) Now, I would like to share the following things about this parable.

(10) First, of all, In verse 14-19, we find a commitment of a task, a responsibility to these servant. And I would like to ask several questions about ~~that~~ *concerning this responsibility*

(IE) Question one: WHO COMMITTED THIS TASK TO THEM? Well, that is obvious.

It was the Son of Man. It was Jesus.

~~Now, I don't know if you know that~~

You see,

But ~~did you know that~~ a lot of christians are trying to serve ~~men~~,^{man} and consequently they get discouraged. ^{Been out} Instead of remembering that all

that we have been entrusted with in the way of a ~~task~~^{Talent} comes from Jesus. We work and serve the Lord as though we were accountable to men. And

yet, the parable of the talents teaches that the man traveling to the far ~~and~~ country is Jesus, and He has entrusted the servants, Christians, with

a task. And it is to Him, Jesus, that we must give and account ^{one day}.

As this passage says in Vs 19, when the Lord comes, we will have to settle accounts with him. He will ask us ^{to} give an account of what we have done. ^{with the talents he has given to us.}

Now, that is true, people, of the christian in the church as well as the people in the tribulation period. In either case, we are going to have to give an account of what we have done before God.

To the christian, who is in the Body of Christ, today, that account will be in a place called the Judgement seat of Christ, recorded in 2 Corinthians 5 and Romans 14 and I Corinthians 3.

All Christians will give an account to God. We will not be judged on the bases of salvation, but ^{For there is No Condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus} on the bases of our ^{works} faithfulness to God. ^{We will be judged} Our works will be examined.

Now, we are not saved by works. We are saved by Grace through Faith. But, one day God will examine our works. And by works ^{The Bible} I mean our "faithfulness" to Him. And what has been done in the ~~the~~ way of self will be burned up like hay, wood and strew. And only what has been done out-off the motive of love will be left.

And if there is any lesson for the christian, today, in the parable of the talents, it is the lesson of USING WHAT WE HAVE FOR GOD IN LOVE. BEING BUSY SERVING THE LORD IN WAYS THAT HE DIRECTS. ^{He, is the one, who has committed Talents to us. and We serve Him, not men} And I think - at Times - We forget that principle

So, you have to know several things. You have to know that you have a task, as an individual believer. And you have to know who you gave you that task....It is from the Lord.....The Lord is the one who is giving us the task....

omy

We are not serving men. We should not be men pleaseers, clock watchers, not with eye service, not asking whether or not we are being approved among men, whether or not we are pleasing people....But...asking: are we pleasing our Lord.....

We serve the Lord... He committed the task to us.

(2P) Now, a second question: WHAT IS IT THAT IS BEING COMMITTED TO US?

From vs 15

Well, ~~is~~ Vs 14, ~~is~~ says "goods" or "possessions". And we know these possessions are talents....

There are three men involved. One gets 5, one get two, and one gets one talent. A talent is ~~a~~ a means of exchange. It is worth six thousand denari. ^{a denar is a day work} But, it is an illustration....Jesus is trying to tell us something. What is it that every Christian receives according to his ability? That is what it says. Every person according to his ability receives either 5, 2 or 1 or whatever you have.

What is ^{it} that we receive from the Lord that is according to our ability?

Well, I have thought a great deal about this. And I have come up with only one thing.

At first I thought about our education, or our experience or our natural talents, or perhaps our wealth...Many people say, "I use my money for the Lord. Others say, I am more capable of teaching than I am of doing something else....WHAT IS IT THAT GOD DOES INTRUSE TO US? THAT HE HOLDS US RESPONSIBLE FOR???? *What is it?*

Well, the only thing I found in all the Bible was spiritual Gifts.

That is the thing, the Bible says, God gives to us according to the ability that the Holy Spirit directs. The Holy Spirit gives ~~gifts~~ ^{a spiritual gift} to every member in the Body of Christ.

To

You may have only one gift or you may have several. Some have greater opportunity and privilege than other folks. But, God does not evaluate us on the bases of how great the gift may seem in the eyes of people. God does not evaluate the gift on the bases of what others may think of our talents and abilities. God evaluates a spiritual gift on whether we are faithful in the use of that gift. ^{Dear Friends we} No matter what it is. When ~~you~~ ^{I believe we} stand before the judgment seat of Christ that is what you will be judged on..How ~~you~~ ^{we were} used ~~your~~ ^{of our} spiritual gift.

perhaps

O.K. what is a spiritual gift? I would like you to turn to Romans chapter 12. Romans chapter 12. And let's begin with Vs 3....

(Read Romans 12:3-8)

Now, the point: ^{To Christians within the church} ~~to the whole body of Christ from Pentecost until the rapture, when Christ takes the church up,~~ God has given ^{a spiritual gift} ~~gifts~~. He has enabled people for his own reasons and His own time. I don't know what your gift is, but every christian has a gift, that should be used for J.C.

There are more gifts listed in I Cor. chapter 12. There are gifts of apostles and prophets. But the Bible says they were for the foundation of the church. And we are no longer building the foundation. ^{These} Apostles and prophets are no longer with us.

But some gifts are still in operation today. And each local church doesn't have to demonstrate every gift of the N.T. The church, as God see it, is not even this local assemble. It is the Body of Christ from Pentecost to the Rapture. That is what God sees and calls the church. And he enabled that church all the way down the line according as He has seen fit. And everyone one of us has ^a gift ~~or gifts~~.

and

So, come back to Matthew and the parable of the talents. What was committed to us? Vs 14 says possessions, ~~or gifts~~. And they were in the form of talents. Talents, I believe, refer to ~~to~~ spiritual gifts. A responsibility that every servant of the Lord has, and one day we will give an account to God on how ~~we~~ used that talent ^{or That Spiritual GIFT.}

There are some people who say, "I don't have a gift." "God can't use me." Dear friends, God uses us in ways that we cannot even understand. For example: in the Bible we have the gift of ^(serve) "helps." ^{man!} ~~isn't that~~ ^{that is} a wonderful gift? Folks who have a special ability to "help" others. It is great

I remember a dear lady telling me, once, that she just didn't have any gift. There was nothing she could do. Yet, she went around helping people like no one I ever saw. It was wonderful to watch her serve. That dear lady had the gift of helps. She had a nice positive attitude. Always in the background. Never said much. Never seeking attention. Just quietly going about the Lord's work of helping and assisting people in need. ^{Remember}

That woman brought more people to Christ - than anyone else.

Dear friends, God has given every Christian a spiritual gift. I don't care who you are. At the moment you come to Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit gives you a gift. It could be the gift of wisdom, or teaching, or encouragement, or giving, or leadership, ^{or show mercy}

Do you understand? This is why the parable of the talents is so important. Because God one day will hold us accountable for how we have invested our time, our opportunities, our gifts for His honor and glory.

(3C) ^{and} ~~OK~~. this brings me to the third question that I would like to ask in regards to this ^{responsibility} ~~commitment~~ of the talents given to the servant: HOW WAS IT RECEIVED? Look at Vs 16....(Read Vs 16-18)

Two out of the three servants recognized that ^{Jesus} ~~God~~ would hold them accountable for their faithfulness with the talents they had. But, one felt that the best way was to hide it in the ground. And I would venture to say that there are many people who are hiding their talents. Good folks who are not being used by God because they are hiding their gift.

And dear friends, this is presented to us in such a way that we cannot help but see how tragic it is.

God

God says this is a terrible thing. In fact ~~he~~ calls the person (vs 2) a wicked, and lazy servant. And yet, the servant tries to justify himself with an excuse.....But, God says NO...He hid his talent...

He didn't throw it away..He didn't lie about it....~~He~~ told the Lord exactly what he did....~~But~~ he hide it..

And many of us at the judgement seat of Christ when faced by God with the opportunities we had, with the responsibilities we have ~~for~~ the Lord, many of us will use the same excuse.....

And we will think of many reasons why we were not involved in ~~the Lord's~~ work....My friends, God is interested in the (spiritual gift) he has given us. He wants us to use ~~that gift~~. Yet, many of us will try to forget our responsibility.....We make excuses.....

This parable teaches that ~~you~~ we are responsibility for ~~your~~ our gift. ~~You~~ We are responsible for ~~your~~ our opportunities...And one day God will judge us according to that responsibility.....And He is going to ask each of us what we did with his gift.....HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

(2D) Secondly, in Vs 20-23, we find some interesting facts about the commendation. Jesus gave to these Two faithful servants. And I want to share just three things with you.

(1C) First of all, I notice that both of them received the same commendation..... Notice, Vs 21: "Well, done ~~Man~~; good and faithful servant, you were Faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your Lord."

Look down at Vs 23: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Same Words. The same commendation.....

So, the next time you feel a little bit hurt because you ~~don't~~ don't have the responsibility of Mr, so and so, I want you to know that God's Word teaches the same commendation will come from Jesus to every person who has been faithful in what God has given them....Y

Talent

Your ~~gift~~^{talent} and ~~work~~^{your work} for God may look allful small in comparison to others, but God and his stanadard is FAITHFULNESS....

(2C) I notice something else, God blesses us more than we deserve.

Look at what he says: ^{vs 21} "You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."

What is the Lord trying to show us? You can't out give God. You get involved for him, God always blesses...And once more, one day at the judgement seat of Christ we will know that the things done in His name for his glory will be rewarded.....

I will put you in charge of many things because you ~~are~~^{were} faithful with the use of your talent....God always blesses more than we deserve. And that is what makes his love so wonderful.

(3C) And the third thing I notice is that if you are faithful in your responsibility in the use of your talent, if you are faithful you will enter into the joy of the Lord.

You know, it is a sad thing when Christians aren't happy. There is a little song which says "There is joy in serving Jesus." I think the author must of based it on the Parable of the talents..

"Enter into the joy of your Lord." Joy, because of what? Because of being faithful in the task God has given you. There is no joy if you have two talents and you are complaining that you don't have five. There is no joy if you have five ~~talents~~^{talents} and you wish you had two.

Noway

Joy is in being faithful to the task God has given you. "Enter into the joy of your lord."

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I want you to turn over to John 15 for just a moment The Gospel of John, Chapter 15. Something that really blesses my heart, here. It is an illustration that I am sure many of you are familiar with. It is the vien and the branches. Jesus says that he is the vine and we are the branches. The illustration concerns bearing Burit.

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Jesus says that every branch that does not bear fruit, he takes away. You must bear some fruit. Every christian bears some kind of fruit... And he tells us that he prunes the vine, so that we may bear more fruit.

Now, when every any trouble or friction comes along in your life, it is for one reason: that you may bear more fruit...Not, to discourage you...Not to make you run away and hide and cause you to throw in the throwel and quite....NO.....God brings trails and testings because he is pruning the branches.....WHY?...So, we will bear more fruit....You are more productive, you see, if you have been pruned....

Then there is another step. ^{Then} Jesus says in Vs 5: "he who abides in Me," that is, makes his home, in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

The person who recognizes that he is totally dependent on Christ, he has no ability to produce in himself, that person will bear much fruit. When he abides in Christ, when he makes his home in him, and Christ ^{settles} ~~settles~~ down in your life, so much so, that Christ is just like he lives with you,.....I know Christ lives in you if you have accepted him. But, I am talking about a practiceal, day by day experience with Christ. You settle down with Christ so there is no uncomtalbeness, you walk with Christ, he is a part of your life, he is not something you look at on Sunday or pray to once a day, but he is your life, THEN YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

Now, knowing these things, come to Vs 11: Jesus says: "These things I have spoken to you." ?These things about fruit bearing. "That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

How does your joy get full? By producting...Fruit bearing.....

And again, come back to Matthew 25 where it says: "enter into the joy of your Lord." WHY THE JOY? Because I was faithful with the talent, with the responsibility, the opportunity, the privilege which God had given to me....THERE IS THE JOY OF THE LORD....

Read

(3B) Then, I want you to notice in Vs 24-27 THE CONDEMNATION he gave to this unfaithful servant....

(READ VS 24)

You know that is true. The Lord depends upon us. He has choosen ^{us}, ~~us~~, ^{He has entrusted} his task unto us....He must get allfull discouragement in the way we are doing it and how we are carrying it out.... ~~But he is~~ ~~and he is~~.....We are his servants; and he is coming back again to ask us how we have been doing in his vinyard. He will ask us to give an account.

Read Vs 25-27

Now, what is the point? UNFAITHFULNESS.....UNFAITHFULNESS.....
He just didn't use what he had....I wonder what it will be like someday to be at the judgment seat of Christ and have the Lord evaluate the opportunities and the responsibilities he has given to each one of us? I wonder what it will be like? One of the things that the Bible presents, especial here in the talents, is to look into the eyes of Jeus and to hear him say: "Well, done, Well done."

And his well done is only based on faithfulness. Nothing else. It is not based on how talented we were. How many gifts we had. But, only on faithfulness.....And that is why this man was condemned by ^{God} ~~God~~...He wasted his opportunities. He wasted his talents. ^{He wasn't faithful} ~~He wasn't faithful~~

^{Read vs 28-30} (4B) ~~But~~ notice the consequences in Vs 28-30 Jesus said, "take away the talent from him and give it to the one with 10 talents. "For to everyone who has shall more be given."

In other words, God is going to reward you for what you have. And God will bless you more than you can possible dream, if you would just be faithful in a few things.

But to the one who never takes advantage of his oportuntites, who wast them away, God will take away even that which he has... *And That faithless servant faces the possible of being cast into outer darkness.*

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Notice Vs 30... [redacted] And this is why I said if you don't know what Olivet discourse is all about you will get all mixed up.

Read Vs 30

That could never be said about the Christian... WHY? ...Because the moment you accept Christ the Holy Spirit comes to indwell you. You have eternal life and you will never be cast out.....

But it is true about those living in the tribulation. They will be judged on their opportunities and privileges. ^{For Select} And many will come out-off that tribulation and be saved. That is true.

But, here is an example of one of those servants who under the interpretation of the parables is one of the Jews who is living in the tribulation. Many of them will be cast out.

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Many people ask: "Pastor, how do you know this." From Ezekiel chapter 20. When Christ comes in power and great glory, the Bible tells us that there are some important things that happen.

(1) One is, that God will judge the Nations...the Gentles... That we will look at next week.

out

(2) me other thing he does to to cast the rebels out of Isreal... And yet, the Bible says, all Isreal will be saved in a day when they see Christ return. All Isreal, the whole nation, will turn to him in a day.....

Well, as a nation that is so... SO? many individuals, many unfaithful servants, many like the 5 virgins who have no oil, ~~many~~, will be cast out. God talks about that in Ezekiel 20.....

(Near slow)

The same thing my friend will be true when Christ comes to meet us in the air... That event, called the Rapture, which caughts up the Body of Christ, happens 7 years before . And everything this parable says has application to everyone of ^{us} today.

[redacted] ev

One - Rapture - Believers caught up -
Non - believers cast out to enter tribulation

Dear Friend

Remember believe you to do

If you have never received christ, ~~the Parable of the 10 virgins~~
So Today IF christ should come today,
~~and you~~ Are you ready to meet him when he comes?

And you must be ready from two stand points. Number one, to know Christ as your saviour. But, number two, as a christian who has been faithful in the task that *God* has given to you....

Faithful in the responsibilities which are yours... Faithful in the use of the ~~(talents)~~ *Talents* which *God* has given you....

For God will one day ask us to give an account.....

I would like to close by having you turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 5:29
2 Corinthians 5:29 Please notice what it says:

Read Vs 9

So, we have as our ambition whether we are present or we are absent we may be accepted of him. Whether we are living, now, or we have already passed on, and we go to be with the Lord. In either case, we may be pleasing to Him.

What is *Paul* talking about?.... Vs 10... "For we must all appear" talking about believers ...(Read Vs 10-11)

He is saying we do ^{the} things we do because we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ knowing the fear of the Lord, therefore, we persuade men. WHY?... Because we have a responsibility

Every Christian has this responsibility to persuade men. And one day God will hold us accountable.

The primary task of every believer is to take the Gospel to every person. Everyone in your sphere of influence, and all whom God draws unto you, is your responsibility. Knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men. Knowing that we are going to have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ, Knowing that God is going to ask us to give account, we persuade men..... *to receive Jesus. That is our task-*

~~God helps each of us to do our part~~

(20) (11)

May God help each one of us to understand that he judges us for our faithfulness.....That **H**e will one day ask us to give an account...

And may this move us on to new dedication, renewed **effort**, greater vision, that God will one day say to each: "well done, thy good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

So

Let Us Pray

That we may have a servant's heart.