

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Text: Matthew 25:29

INTRO: The word "talent" in the Bible was first a measure of weight, but came to be used to designate a specific piece of money. Wycliffe Bible Encly. Suggests we think of a talent as representing about \$1,000. The English word "talent" used to describe an ability was taken from Jesus' parable. Each servant was given a specific amount of his lord's money according to the ability of the servant to make proper use of that sum. Thus, even tho the Gr talent was a piece of money, the parable is still a story of differing abilities.

I. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TALENTS, vs 14-15.

A. Every servant had something entrusted to him. There is no such thing as a no-talent man or woman.

1. Good health, strong body, alert mind, natural abilities, etc.
2. Each servant received differing abilities. READ I COR 12:14-27.
3. We also meet with varying opportunities.

II. THE USE OF THESE ABILITIES, vs 16-18

A. Both the 5-talent man & the 2-talent man made ultimate use of their talents. This they did by being faithful, vs 20-23.

B. Tho Jesus did not specifically deal with this fact in His parable, we know that in the "real world" there are many 5-talent men who use only 2 or 3 or 4 talents. They may impress their less-gifted fellow servants, but their Master knows.

1. Jesus watched people put their gifts into the temple treasury, Mark 12:41-44. As man looks at the situation the poor widow gave LESS than anyone else. To Jesus, she gave MORE—She gave all she had.

2. Mary of Bethany did what she could, Mark 14:6.

C. The problem of the 1-talent man: Fear, vs 24-25.

1. Perhaps he feared that what he could do would not be noticed, or that the lack of it would not be missed.

2. Likely, his fear involved a matter of pride. I can't do as much as those other fellows, so I just

won't do anything. If I can't be captain, I won't be on the team. If others can sing better than I, I won't sing at all. If others can give more, I won't give.

3. Definitely, he was "afraid" of work. Lazy, vs. 26. Have you ever said, "Why doesn't someone do something?" Do it.
4. Was afraid his master would be too demanding, too exacting, vs 24-25.

2 Cor 8:10-12, And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. For if there is 1st a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

III. THE RECKONING, vs 19-30.

- A. Not all consequences await the final judgment. The faithful servants were blessed as they labored. Their talents increased with use. This is always true.

B. The lazy, fearful man must have spent a major part of his time fretting & dreading the day when his master would return & call him into account. "A coward dies 1,000 times, the brave man dies but once."

C. But far more important than any immediate consequences, are the eternal consequences. "Enter into the joy of the Lord," vs. "Cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping & gnashing of teeth."

CONCLUSION: Note that the difference in the destiny of the servants was not due to their differing abilities. It was not because of their differing opportunities. The difference in their destiny was due to one thing along: the difference between faithfulness & unfaithfulness.

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