

Parables of Jesus part 25

Various Scriptures

“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough.
But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”
-Matthew 25:29

What would you say are your 5 best traits or greatest attributes?

*Caring for others

*Listening

*Serving

*Ability to solve problems

*Speaking

Context: Matthew reflects on a time during the passion week when Jesus spoke to them in the mount of Olives about the kingdom of heaven. So far he has discussed the necessity of knowing the _____ of the end times, being a _____ servant, and being _____. Now Jesus shares a parable about the importance of them being a good steward.

Do you know the 3 things Christians are to be good stewards of?

* _____: These are day to day opportunities to advance the kingdom of heaven.

* _____: These are our God given talents and abilities.

* _____: These are our financial resources.

Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

Talents: Greek word *talanton*. Meaning balance, sum, or weight. When we hear this word we mostly think of an ability or skill, but in other places around the world it is known as a unit of weight that can be applied to precious metals, in the Bible, silver or gold. Biblically speaking it is related to the weight of gold used for the payment of goods.

Exodus 25:39; 2 Samuel 12:30; 1 Kings 9:14

The kingdom of heaven is like...

● **Characters: (14-19)**

Who are the characters of this parable and what did they do?

✓ Man/Master: 14-

*Was preparing to leave.

*He called his servants and entrusted his _____ to them.

*To one he gave _____ talents, another he gave _____ and the last one he gave _____.

*He left.

*He returned after a _____ and settled accounts with them.

✓ Servant #1

*Took his talents and made _____ more.

✓ Servant #2

*Took his talents and made _____ more.

✓ Servant #3

*Took his talent, went off, dug a hole in the ground and _____ his master's money.

As we consider the actions of the master and his servants, what can you do to make a positive impact and please the Lord with what He has given to you?

● Rewards: (20-23)

How were the servants rewarded for what they did with their talents?

Servant #1 (20-21)

*Verbally commended

*Promoted

*Shared his master's _____

Servant #2 (22-23)

*Verbally commended

*Promoted

*Shared his master's _____

What does sharing the joy of their master sound like today with those who believe in Jesus?

2 Timothy 2:12; 1 Peter 4:13

What does the text imply that was necessary in order for these two servants to receive their rewards? How does this relate to us today?

- _____ and _____

*To be _____ means to do what is right in God's sight.

*To be _____ means to be loyal, constant, and steadfast.

1 Corinthians 15:58

● **Judgment:(24-30)**

While its easy to celebrate and focus only on the rewards of those who are good and faithful, the main emphasis of this parable is the tragic judgement of the servant who did nothing with what his master entrusted to him.

What did he do when his master came home? Why?

*Made _____

*Blamed _____

*Because he was only concerned about _____

As we read about this last servant who said his master was harsh, what are some other misconceptions about God that can hinder our ability to be good and faithful servants today?

*God does not _____ us because of His grace and love.

*God is just here to _____ us.

*Religion and _____ are the same thing. Just because we participate in a religious activity does not mean we are in fellowship with God.

How did the master respond?

*Verbal condemned and reprimanded

*Took his _____ away

*He was thrown into the _____ where there will be _____ and gnashing of teeth.

How should we view and apply this in our lives today?

God rejoices when His servants make a profit.

Time + Work + Money = Profit

Matthew 22:37-40; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

- Bringing glory and honor to God is **profitable**.
- Edification and spiritual growth in the Body of Christ is **profitable**.
- Using our money to bless others in need is **profitable**.

This parable insists that watchfulness must not lead to inactivity, but persistence in our God-given duties. Everyone has received gifts according to their ability and what they make of these gifts is what counts in the end. We must be learning, growing, carrying out our responsibilities and developing the resources that God entrusts to us until He returns and settles accounts.

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.” -Paul Meyer