

# You Are Talented

## “The Parable of the Talents”



*“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:21*

This parable which is only in the Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30 is told to the disciples while they are gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus had been preaching and doing many miracles. He had fed the hungry, cured the sick, and was trying to prepare the disciples for His leaving this earth and their part in making sure that His words were carried on. He told the disciples that He was telling them things in parables so they could understand them. Sometimes when we are told a story, we need to think it through later before the real meaning sets in. I believe this was true of the disciples. They weren’t prepared for Christ to leave the earth. They were still hoping, as were many of the other people that Christ was going to be the earthly king they had been waiting for through generations.

Christ tells them a story about three servants. The master had given each one some talents, but the amounts differed. One was given one, another was given five, and another was given ten talents. Most scholars seem to think these talents which were at that time a currency also represent the gifts we have been given by God. The number of talents given to each is not significant. The important part of this parable is how the individuals dealt with the talents given to them. Unless we use the talents given to us, they are useless. Each of us has been given talents, some maybe more than others. This parable judges us by how we use the talents given to us.

It is important to note that they were not asked to go out and earn their talents from scratch. They were given the talents. All they had to do was use them wisely. The master had given them the talents; the use of them was determined by the slave.

We all have talents. Sometimes we are so good at hiding them; we don’t realize we have them. But God has given each of us talents.

Some think this parable is about salvation. Maybe it is. But we also know that Christ was trying to prepare the disciples for what was coming. Christ knew He was nearing the end of His time on this earth. There was work to be done. His message had to go to the entire world. Christ commanded the disciples in a later passage in Matthew “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” Matthew 28:19-20.

It is important to note the verse before this command. In verse 18, Christ tells the disciples that He had all power in heaven and earth. He had given this power to them. He had told them that they now had the Holy Spirit. They had been given talents by the Master. Now Christ was charging them to use those talents.

Through God’s love for us He has given each of us talents. We are responsible for using those talents. It may be talking with someone about God’s love. It may be going to the foreign mission field. It may be working in your own community and allowing God’s love to show through you. Maybe you can help someone who can’t do something because you have been given a talent different from theirs. Maybe you can bake cookies. Maybe you can help gather food or clothing for those less fortunate. There is always a way to use our talents, but we have to be willing to use them. The man in this parable

who had been given just one talent was not willing to use it. Instead he blamed the master for being harsh and said he was afraid to use it.

These talents are not salvation. Our salvation is merely our accepting God as our personal Saviour and asking for His forgiveness. We cannot earn salvation. I believe that God rejoices when we use the talents given to us, and He does reward us. We are not saved by using those talents, but we are saved unto good works. We have all the resources, the rest depends on us.

Prayer: God, You loved us so much that You sent Your only Son to earth and die so that we may have eternal life. That was the most wonderful gift we could ever ask for. Help us to share that gift with other who do not know You as their personal Saviour through the talents You have given to us. Amen.

1. What talents have you been given?
2. Do we have a responsibility to help others find their talents?
3. How can you multiple your talents?
4. What excuses do we use for not using the talents that have been given to us?

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#### The Parable of the Talents

*“It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money. ‘After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on is my partner.’ ‘The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’ ‘The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’ The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this ‘play-it-safe’ who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’”*

Matthew 25:14-30