

Joseph Carty / General

Parables / Parable of the Talents / Matthew 25:14–30

We must use what we have for God's glory even if it seems like little to us.

Talents

- One my fav parables
 - lets read it.

Matthew 25:14–15 **ESV**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

- Let’s pick this apart.
- Fill in the symbols
 - Easy part first.

Who is the wealthy Man that goes away?

- Jesus
 - The servants that invest the wealth?
 - us
-
- It is true.
 - God is the owner of all
 - wealth
 - blessings
-
- I like Luke's version:

Luke 19:12 **ESV**

He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.

Why did the nobleman leave?

- To receive a kingdom!

- What is this in reference to?
 - Jesus leaving
 - Jesus 2nd Coming
 - Jesus receiving kingdom for us
- Going back to Matt.

Matthew 25:15 ESV

To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

- That seems a little unfair.
 - Why?

Why do some people get more than others?

- To answer this,
 - we need to first ask:

“What do the talents represent?”

- What???

- Spiritual wealth
 - Spiritual opportunity
 - Spiritual knowledge
 - Spiritual fruit
 - Spiritual gift
-
- Now, is it true
 - that some got more
 - in this life?
-
- Most certainly.
-
- In this sense
 - life is not fair.
-
- Many have been given
 - better opportunities
 - spiritually speaking.
-
- But there is a catch!

Luke 12:48 ESV

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

- We have not all
 - been given the same
 - opportunities.
- But God is good.
 - he will only judge
 - based on our situation.

New question:

How much wealth did he give?

- A talent = 20 years wages
 - for minimum wage.
- That is a significant sum.

Today's Money

- At \$10 per hour
 - Yearly = \$20,000
 - Time 20 years
 - \$400,000
 - Times 5 = \$2 Million
- This is not pocket change!
 - these are real investors!
 - this is big money!
- That being said,

Have we been given much or little?

- Our Spiritual Opportunities.
 - Extremely wealthy
 - Christian

- Adventist
- Many Bibles
- Religious Freedom
- Sermons
- 3ABN
- Bible Studies
 - Information!!!
- Let's see what
 - happens next in the parable:
- How did the investors
 - do with their money?

Matthew 25:16–18 ESV

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

- Some did great!
 - Doubled investment!

- Good Job!
- Some squandered.

If somebody gave you \$400k, saying, “invest it” wouldn’t you be thoughtful, how you invest it?

- Wouldn’t You?
 - Ahhh...
 - but he has!
- You just said,
 - we are greatly privileged
 - more than most.
- You have been given
 - the 400k.
- Now the question:

- What are you doing with it???
- Let's ask this question:

How do you invest the spiritual currency that we have been given?

- How can we
 - multiple spiritual blessings
 - God has given?
- Simple,
 - give them to others.
- Share the spiritual
 - opportunity
 - knowledge
 - love
 - we have been given!

- This is not
 - rocket science.
- It is easier
 - than the stock market.
- Yet,
 - with that kind of funds
 - it must be done
 - very thoughtfully.
- Jesus said,

Matthew 7:6 ESV

“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

- What he means,
 - some will not
 - appreciate this wealth.
- But don't give up.

- Some will.

Matthew 25:19 ESV

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

- What does this moment represent?
 - Clearly
 - 2nd Coming.
- Jesus is coming back.
 - Giving Judgment
 - Based on Opportunity.
- We will be held accountable
 - what we did with
 - our resources.

Continuing:

Matthew 25:20–23 ESV

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

- According to the story
 - many who had
 - great opportunity
 - used it
 - invested well!
- Often those with
 - the most light
 - make good use.
- But it isn't true of all.

Matthew 25:24-27 ESV

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.'

Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

- According to this passage
 - He didn’t steal it
 - He gave it back.
- But he didn’t multiply it.
 - He didn’t invest.
- He didn’t make good use
 - of what he was given.

What does this represent spiritually?

- To explain this,
 - lets break it down.

- Let's ask another question.
 - What is the symbolic meaning
 - of successfully investing
 - the talent that was given?

- Simple,
 - we already explained.

- It means,
 - giving the
 - opportunities
 - knowledge
 - blessings
 - love
 - that we have
 - to others.

- Now, then,
 - what does it mean

- if he didn't multiply it
 - but didn't lose it?
- What does it mean
 - if we haven't invested
 - but we haven't lost it?
- It means we
 - selfishly kept all
 - opportunities
 - knowledge
 - blessings
 - love
 - to ourselves.
- It means,
 - we didn't share it.
- It means,

- we invested only
 - in ourselves!
- Now,
 - considering the money
 - is not lost
 - maybe the Master
 - won't be too
 - disappointed.
 - Let's See:

Matthew 25:28–30 ESV

So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- On the contrary,
 - the master is very displeased.
- It is as if

- he stole it!

- Why?
 - Because in a sense,
 - he did steal it!

- How can I say that?
 - All the others
 - doubled their money.

- The master expected
 - a return on investment.

- He could have at least
 - got some interest!!!

- And yet,
 - this man of privilege
 - and opportunity.

- squandered away
 - the chance to
 - make double.

- Yes,
 - in a sense
 - He stole.

- And so,
 - we are in danger
 - of doing the same.

- We confessed,
 - we are the ones
 - who have been given
 - spiritual talents.

- By not sharing the light
 - we have been given

- we are stealing from
 - those who should have received.
- Now I ask you:

What are you going to do with the talents that have been given you?

- People tell me,
 - “I can’t do that...”
- People say,
 - “That is not my spiritual gift...”
- Some say,
 - “I have few spiritual gifts...”
- Others say,
 - “I’m not good at sharing my faith...”
- May I suggest a reason why???
- Because you are not using what you have!!!

- And be careful my friends,
 - because soon
 - we will have to give an account.

- And when we don't
 - use what we have been given
 - it will be taken away
 - and given to others.

- Everyone here
 - has a sphere of influence.

- Each has
 - different people
 - in their life.

- God put them there
 - so you can share
 - what was given to you.

- I charge you today:

Be a good steward!

- There was a man
 - named Moses.
- A man of great opportunities.
 - Raised in the truth
 - taught the scriptures.
 - Raised in the place
 - taught science.
 - Given country life
 - taught nature.
- He was a man
 - of many talents.

- God called him to
 - a special task.
- What do you think
 - his answer was?

Excuses Then

- Who am I. I can't go.
 - I will go with you.
- Diversion: "what if they ask me what your name is."
 - (woman at the well)
 - I AM will be with you.
- The Israelites won't believe.
 - Here are some signs.
- I can't talk well.
 - Aaron will talk for you.
- Please send someone else.
 - God gets angry.

Excuses Today

- God has heard
 - all of those excuses today.
- Who am I. I can't go.
 - I'm not good at ministry.
 - I can't do that.
 - That is not my spiritual gift.
 - If you are short on talents
 - start using what you have!!!
- Diversion: "what if they ask me what your name is."
 - People will ask me questions that I don't have the answer to.
 - And???
 - So???
 - If you want to learn to be ready to give the right answer you must be put in the right circumstance to learn it.
- The Israelites won't believe.
 - Other Christians think this is not my spiritual gift.

- Keep working for God. And God will show everyone what he can do with a person that is “unqualified.”
- I can’t talk well.
 - Ever heard that one?
 - Constantly!
 - God promises to give you the words or to help you find others that will show you how to speak for him.
- Please send someone else.
 - God’s response is the same today.
 - Anger!
- God already invested in you.
 - Pass it on.
 - or you will be
 - Passed over.
- One thing I like
 - that God says to Moses
 - in the conversation.

Exodus 4:2 ESV

The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”

- God is saying,
 - the same to us.
- What is that in your hand?
 - Use what you got.
 - Start with what you have been given.
 - If you want more,
 - use what you have.

Seylah - mouth full, asking for more.

- If you don't
 - use what you have
 - you won't be given more.

It was when Moses stood before God, conscious of his inefficiency, that he was in the very condition in which the Lord could best reveal to him His saving grace....

Every one whom the Lord calls should be distrustful of self, and have full trust in God.

— {RH February 12, 1895, par. 9-10}

- Even if you think
 - you don't have enough
 - that is a good thing.
- It makes you trust God more!

Conclusion

- You are gifted immensely.
- You are the 5 Talent guy.
- You must invest.
 - There are consequences if you don't.
- The way you invest,

- win others for Christ.
- No excuses
- do what you can, with what you have.

Appeal

- What is in your hand?
- Use it for God today.
 - Not tomorrow.
 - Not next week.