



USING GOD'S GIFTS

The Story of the Talents

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Lesson by Ray Reynolds (6/14/09)



Introduction: This parable is another one of my favorites. We should note that this parable is directed to Christians only. Remember that all work done outside of the church (kingdom) is vain (**I Corinthians 15:58**). Therefore, only believers can really relate to this parable. There seems to be a difference between this parable and the parable of the Pounds found in the Gospel of Luke (or Minas). It was at a different time and spoken to different people. This parable was spoken to the disciples and to them only. Let's study this one together. . . .

Discussion:

I. THE STORY

- A. A talent represented a measure (75 pounds or \$1,000.00).
- B. The same blessing was pronounced upon the two-talent man as on the five-talent man.
- C. This parable teaches us that our failure to use our ability will not only cause us to miss heaven, but that our abilities will be taken from us if they are not used.
- D. This also reminds us to take advantage of every opportunity (**Galatians 6:10**).

II. THE MEANING

- A. The kingdom of heaven is as a "*man traveling into a far country*" (v.14).
- B. The lord called his servants and "*delivered his goods to them*" (v.14).
- C. The lord of those servants came to "*settle accounts with them*" (v.19).
- D. The lord commends the faithful servants (vs.21-23).
- E. The lord rewards the faithful servants (vs.21-23).
- F. The lord recognizes the unfaithful servant (vs.24-25).
- H. The lord punishes the unfaithful servant (vs.26-28).

III. THE APPLICATION

- A. Priorities - Are we ready to drop everything of a personal nature, such as financial gain or personal pleasure, when a need arises in the church where we could personally be of assistance? If not, what can we do?
- B. Willing - Are we ready to say "YES" to anything the church needs us to do when we know that it is in the realm of our capabilities? Can we be counted on? If not, what can we do?
- C. Committed - Are we willing to sacrifice our own time, which we have previously allotted for ourselves, if an emergency in the church calls for us to assist? If not, what can we do?
- D. Steadfast - Are we willing, ready, and attentive to every service of the church? Do we make every possible effort to be in worship or Bible study at the proper time? If not, what can we do to become more steadfast?
- E. Worship - Are we focused when we worship each Lord's day? Do we partake in all of the acts of worship with in spirit and it truth? If not, what can we do?
- F. Active - Are we fulfilling an active role as a member of this congregation? Are we using our talents wisely and trying to develop new talents? If not, what can we do?
- G. Servanthood - Are we developing a servant driven church? Are we willing to do for others what we want done to us? If not, what can we do?
- H. Vision - Do we anticipate things in the church? Do we look ahead and try to know in advance things, which might require our time in the church? If so do we adjust our schedules to conform? If not, what can we do?

Conclusion: **Matthew 25:30** says, "And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." This is a grim scene when compared with the reward to the faithful. Thank God He allows us to make the choice! What will you choose?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Gifts"