

The Parable of the Talents



**Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-
26**

- **Review Lessons Taught:**
- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

1. What is a parable?

- **It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truths.**
- **The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- **Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**

2. These are the parables that have been taught:

- **The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)**
- **The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)**
- **The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)**
- **The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)**
- **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)**
- **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price” (Matthew 13:45-46)**
- **The Parable of the Dragnet**
- **The Parable of the Wineskins**

3. We learned that there are at least 39 Parables that is recorded in between the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. There are no parables found in the Gospel of John.

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-26

- This parable is so powerful because it reminds us of what Jesus Christ has done for us, given us, expects from us and will return for us.
 - This parable teaches us that stewardship is not just an earthly matter, but an eternal Kingdom matter as well.
 - In this parable Jesus shares with His disciples that the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them... (vs. 14-30)
- There are Five important factors that Jesus mentions in this parable. (vs. 14-30)
 1. The man.
 2. The journey.
 3. The servants.
 4. The goods.
 5. The return.
 - There are Four areas we will examine in this parable. (vs. 20-30)
 1. The calling.
 2. The concern.
 3. The commendation.
 4. The condemnation.
 - Who is the “man” referred to in this parable? (vs. 14)
 1. The “man” is the Son of Man – “Jesus Christ.”
 2. The “man” traveling to a far country – “Jesus Christ ascension into heaven.”
 3. The “man” returns from his journey away – “Jesus Christ will return.”

- The Word of God is the infallible truth that Jesus Christ has risen and ascended into heaven. He now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. (Luke 24:1-26, 27-49, Acts 1:1-11, Romans 8:34, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3-4, 12:1-2, 1 Peter 3:22)
 - The Word of God is also the infallible truth that Jesus Christ will return once His work down here on earth is completed by His servants. (Matthew 24:37-47, John 14:1-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 19:11-16)
- Notice the action of the “man” before traveling on his journey. (vs. 14)
 1. The “man” called his own servants.
 2. The “man” delivered his goods to them.
 3. Both the servants and the goods belonged to the man.
 - Jesus reveals in this parable a Kingdom Principle called Stewardship. (Genesis 1:26-28)
 1. The word “stewardship” means the right to care for the property of another or someone else.
 2. Another word for “dominion” is stewardship, manager or administrator over.
 3. God is the Owner, “I’m just the manager.”
 4. God gave mankind dominion or stewardship over everything that He created. (Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8:4-9)
 - God gave us stewardship for two reasons. (Psalm 24:1-2, 100:1-5, Deuteronomy 8:18)
 1. To honor Him.
 2. To teach us responsibility.
 - This parable teaches us that the True Master and Lord is Jesus Christ.
 1. The true believers are known as Jesus Christ servants. (John 12:26, Matthew 24:45-47, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 7:20-24)
 2. The word “servant” means slave, bond-servant or someone who is under the authority of another.

3. True servant of Christ not only makes Him Savior but also Lord over his life. God has complete and total control over their lives.
 - We belong to God.
 - What we have belongs to God.
 - We are stewards of the Most-High God.

- God has entrusted His property to His servants (believers, stewards). (vs. 16-18)
 1. The word “talent” means money, or financial resources.
 2. It can also be referred to as gifts and abilities given to us by God.
 3. The steward of God must manage His property wisely and responsibly. That includes his life, financial resources, talents (abilities), gifts, time, and possessions.
 4. Stewardship is a lifelong process that addresses every area of our lives.

- How we manage Christ’s Kingdom affairs here on earth, will determine if we will manage His affairs in His eternal Kingdom.
 1. It’s not a question about your salvation, but a question of your maturity as a servant and steward of God.
 2. The responsibilities each servant will be given in heaven will be determined by how they served God faithfully here on earth.
 3. Heaven is a perfect place for a perfected people. God will reward the faithful and judge the unfaithful. (Isaiah 65:17-25, Hebrews 12:22-24, Revelation 1:6, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)
 - Heaven is a place where believers of Christ will be free to worship, and enjoy the fellowship of other sisters and brothers in Christ. (Revelation 7:4-12)
 - Heaven is a place where believers of Christ will continue to study the Word of God.
 - Heaven is a place that will be filled with joy and laughter. And no, we will not be sitting around all day bored and doing nothing.
 - Heaven is a place where believers of Christ will continue to serve, work, rest and rule over nations. (Revelation 3:21, 5:7-14, 7:13-17, 1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

- The First thing we must examine carefully is the Master's call in this parable. (vs. 14-15)
 - "The man called his own servants and delivered to them his goods." (vs. 14)
 - There are three things that this parable teaches us about the Son of Man – Jesus Christ.
 1. He called those who were His own.
 2. He called those who was be faithful and responsible to His service.
 3. He called those who could be trusted with His goods (money, gifts, abilities, possessions).
 - "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey." (vs. 15)
 - There are three things that this parable teaches us about the expectation of the Son of Man – Jesus Christ.
 1. He expects for every servant to work and serve. (Ephesians 4:7-8, Philippians 2:12)
 2. He expects each servant to manage His property wisely and responsibly. (Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 1:1-5)
 3. He expects each servant to know His will and what is required of them. (Matthew 16:26-27, 1 Peter 1:13-17, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
 - To be faithful.
 - To be fruitful and productive.
 - To not be consumed by worldly affairs or by their own selfish agenda.

- There are four things in this parable that Christ reveal about Himself and those He called. (vs. 15)
 1. He did not give each servant the same amount, but they all were given the same opportunity. (1 Corinthians 4:7)
 2. He knows what each servant can handle based upon their God-given abilities, gifts, talents, and financial resources. (Matthew 22:14, 2 Peter 1:10-1, 1 Peter 2:9-10)

3. He has given each servant the exact amount of grace needed to do His will and glorify His name. (Ephesians 1:1-3, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 2 Corinthians 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
 4. He has ascended into to heaven. But what kind of return will He receive on the investment He has made in us when He returns?
 - That's the question that every steward will have to answer and give an account for.
- The Second Thing we must examine carefully is the Master concern in this parable. (vs. 14-15)
- What have we learned in this parable?
 1. God has entrusted to His servants His talents (financial resources, gifts, abilities, time, possessions).
 2. God requires His servants to manage His goods wisely and responsibly.
 3. God wisely gave His servants His talents according to their ability or capacity to manage it responsibly.
 4. God will never call you to do something that He hasn't supplied you with the grace needed to accomplish His will. (Ephesians 1:1-3, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
 5. God needs our obedience and faithfulness to do His will and Word. (Luke 6:46, 11:27-28, John 14:23)
 6. God never asks us to pattern our lives after anyone else but Jesus Christ. (John 5:19, 1 Corinthians 15:1-10, 11:1, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John 2:6)
 - (1 John 2:6) – “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also walk just as He walked.”
 - We don't all have the same call, finances, gift(s) or abilities, but we all have enough grace and time or opportunity to use what we have for God's purposes in the world. (Ephesians 4:11-16, Ephesians 1:1-3, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 1Peter 4:10-11)
 - We must guard our heart against discontentment. (Philippians 4:9-13, Proverbs 4:23)

- There are Two concerns that is revealed in this parable. (vs. 14-15)
 1. To use or abuse what God has entrusted to us while Jesus Christ is away.
 2. To be prepared or unprepared for Jesus Christ's return.

- There are Two things that the Master was never concerned about.
 1. The call. Why? Because He trusted them.
 2. The goods. Why? Because He wisely entrusted it to them based upon their abilities.

- The Master's expectation for all (3) three servants was the same while He was away. (vs. 14-15)
 1. Be responsible with His talents and time.
 2. Be resistant toward being lazy, complacent, unfruitful and unfaithful.
 3. Be resilient by serving faithfully and wisely using everything that God has entrusted for His glory and purpose.

- What can be learned by each Servant's attitude and action in this parable? (vs. 16-18)
 - 1) The Two servants were faithful and successful in managing their Master's property.
 - The Master invested in them and they brought a return on His investment.
 - The Two servants were diligent with their talents (finances, gifts, abilities) and not focusing on the size of the talent that were given to them.
 - The Two servants chose to use what they had and not complain about what they didn't have.
 - The Two servants recognized that both their service and their gains were all for their Master service and purposes.
 - The Two servants took immediate action. (vs. 16-17)
 - They chose not to be wasteful and unwise with their Master's goods.
 - They seized every opportunity by making the most of the time given to them by their Master. (Psalm 90:12, Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13)

- They gave maximum effort due to their love, loyalty, commitment and dedication to their Master. (Colossians 3:23-24)
- They wanted to please their Master who had called, trusted and put His faith in them.
- The Two servants used the Master's talents (money) and their abilities to serve a greater purpose than their own. (vs. 16-17)
- a. They had both knowledge of their Master and the purpose for His property.
 - They knew their Master closely and intimately.
 - They knew their Master was good and faithful.
 - They knew their Master would return and reward them.
- b. The question for every true believer is what are you doing with what you know and what you have been given? (James 1:21-22)
 - Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? (2 Peter 3:17-18, James 1:21-22)
 - Are you wisely seeking God for wisdom and direction for your life? (James 1:5-8)
 - Are you faithful and obedient to Christ's call and purposes? (Luke 16:10-11, 1Corinthians 4:2, Hebrews 10:23)
- c. God is the Righteous Judge. (Psalms 7:11, 33:4, Acts 17:24-31, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Ecclesiastes 3:14-17, Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 1:9)
 - He will judge and reward every person for their management or mismanagement of life, finances, abilities, gift(s), time and possessions.
 - The One servant took immediate action but with less effort. (vs. 18)
 - This servant's attitude was to avoid all expectation and responsibility.
 - He was a wasteful and unfaithful servant.
 - He allowed time and opportunity to slip away. (John 9:4, Ephesians 5:13-17)
 - His actions proved his disloyalty to his Master.
 - He refused to maximize what the Master had given him and the abilities that were identified in him.
 - He was negligent, lazy, selfish, unfaithful and wicked.
 - He did not use the Master gifts wisely.

- He knew the expectation of his Master, yet he goes and hides the Master's talent.
 - a. He thought he could give less effort and hide behind his excuses. (Romans 1:16-22)
 - b. He expected his Master to accept his foolish behavior and poor mismanagement.
 - c. He was only concerned about himself and not his Master.
- He gave no thought who his Master was and what his Master had entrusted to him.
 - a. He forgot that his Master called him when no one else considered him.
 - b. He forgot that his Master trusted him when no one else did.
 - c. He forgot that his Master faithful and would reward him for being faithful.
- The talents in this parable represent opportunities to use our life, finances, gift(s), abilities, time, and possessions to serve Jesus Christ Kingdom purposes in the world.
 1. The concern is never if God is faithful, He is faithful. But whether we will remain faithful. (2 Timothy 2:10-16)
 2. The concern is as we examine this parable, we fail to take time to examine our relationship with Jesus Christ and our lives as stewards of God.
 3. The concern is whether we will be profitable or unprofitable servants and stewards down here in the earth when Jesus Christ returns. (Matthew 24:42-47)
- The Third Thing we must examine carefully is the Master's commendation in this parable. (vs. 19-23)
 - (vs. 19) – "After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them."
 - The word "reckoning" used in the King James version means to count, calculate, to take inventory, or the settlement of accounts. (vs. 19)

1. God will hold a day of reckoning with people on the day of Judgement, when the True Judge will settle accounts with both the living and the dead. (Matthew 25:19, 1 Peter 4:1-5, 2 Peter 3:9)
 2. The Lord Jesus Christ will one day come also and settle His accounts with all His servants and stewards. (Matthew 25:20-23)
 3. Jesus is referring to believers (His servants and stewards). This is known as the Judgement Seat of Christ. (Romans 14:7-12, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 4:1-5, 2 Corinthians 5:8-10)
 - This is a reminder to every servant and steward of the Lord Jesus Christ who will give an account for all that He has entrusted to them.
 4. Both servants acknowledged what their Lord had entrusted to them. (vs. 20-23)
 - (vs. 20) – The servant who received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, “Lord you delivered to me five talents, look I have gained five more.”
 - (vs. 22) – The servant who received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered to me two talents, look I gained two more.”
- Both servants expressed three things:
1. They expressed genuine gratitude to their Lord for entrusting them with His talents (finances, life, gift(s), abilities, possessions, time).
 2. They expressed a sincere privilege to be counted worthy enough to called a servant of the Lord.
 3. They expressed a sincere boldness and not boastful before the Lord. Why?
 - a. These two servants knew they had been faithful in both their call and assignment, that were given to them by their Lord to do.
 - The word “faithful” means reliable, loyal, and trustworthy.
 - The word “faithful” is used to describe believers as faithful ones who are not only dependable but also full of faith.
 - b. Both servants received the same commendation from their Lord. (vs. 21, 23)
 - (vs. 21, 23) – “His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the lord.”

- c. Both servants were rewarded greatly for their faithfulness. The reward given to them by their Master was two-fold: (vs. 21, 23)
1. Rulership with the Lord. (vs. 21, 23)
 - They were given rulership not ownership. God still owns everything.
 - They were given responsibility to rule in the Kingdom of Heaven after the Lord returns from His journey away. (Matthew 19:27-29)
 - The great reward of being able to reign, rule, and serve alongside our Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:10-14, Revelation 1:4-6, 5:7-10)
 - The faithful servants (believers, stewards), shall reign as kings and priests when Christ rules and reigns here on earth for a thousand years. (Revelation 1:4-6, 5:7-10, 1 Peter 2:9, Romans 8:16-17)
 - The faithful servants (believers, stewards) treasure what God treasures, knowing that God will reward them with spiritual rewards (eternal riches, heavenly treasures). (Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15)
 - The believers' work (labor) will follow them into eternity. (Ephesians 2:8-10, Revelation 14:13, 1 Corinthians 15:58)
 2. The joy of the Lord. (vs. 21, 23)
 - a. The source of the believer's joy is Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus Christ's joy reigns in the heart and life of the believer.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ's joy is Two-fold:
 - 1) The joy of fulfilling the will and purposes of God. (John 4:34, 6:26-40, 9:4-5)
 - 2) The joy of returning into eternal glory with our Heavenly Father and spending eternity with all of His True Followers. (John 14:1-6, 27-28, 12:25-26 16:16-23, Hebrews 12:1-2)
 - c. The Joy of Jesus Christ is never dependent upon circumstantial happiness. (John 15:11)
 - 1) Happiness depends upon what's happening, but the joy of the Lord sustains the believer even in the most difficult seasons in their lives. (1 Peter 1:3-9, 4:12-13)
 - 2) Jesus Christ's joy will remain and be "full" (full measure, complete, overflowing) in the believer's heart. (John 15:11)

- a. The joy of Jesus Christ will remain and overflow by abiding in Christ's love and keeping God's commandment (obeying His Word).
- b. The joy of Jesus Christ can only be divinely possessed by God through His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:48-52, Romans 14:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7)
- It is one of the character traits of Jesus Christ known as the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)