

ONLY GOT ONE TALENT?

29/4/07

The parable of the talents is one of a trilogy in Matthew 25, expounding on responsibility and judgment. This parable reveals that the amount of talents you have is not the issue, but it's how you use what you have! It is important to learn the lesson of this parable because the person who did not use his ability was lost forever.

The parable of the talents is the middle one. The first is the ten virgins and the third is the sheep and goats.

MAT 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. He gave them all the Holy Spirit.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Some had greater and some had lesser ability.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. Faithfulness is about taking bold risks, by trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit. We tend to think of faithfulness in maintenance terms. Faithfulness is often seen as holding the fort, maintaining the status quo, hanging on to what we have, yet, nothing could be further from the truth. Faithfulness is about sowing and reaping, multiplying what you have to the best of your God given ability. Faithfulness isn't minimizing risk. Faithfulness is maximizing risk because maximizing risk is maximizing reward, but it must be of the spirit.

17 And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. To correctly appreciate this parable we need to understand that one talent was the equivalent of twenty years of a day laborer's wages (\$624,000... 1day x \$100 x 6 day week). Many people today undervalue the talent thinking it is only a small amount... but you don't bury small amounts of money. The value of being spirit filled is well beyond normal human values.

Too many people have a savings mindset, they want to keep what they have, they want to play safe... they are planning not to lose. Yet, the parable of the talents is all about an investment mindset, stepping out to get more. It's playing to win for the Lord. In the church, there can be a lot of focus on avoiding sin and the recovery from it, because it is easier to identify. But the greatest regrets at the end of our lives won't be the things we did wrong. It will be not doing the right things... things we could have, should have, and would have done.

Some recent research found that the passing of time is a key factor in what we regret. Over the short term, we tend to regret our actions. But over the long haul, we tend to regret inactions. The study found that over the course of an average week, action regrets outnumber inaction regrets 53% to 47%. But when people look at their lives as a whole, inaction regrets outnumber action regrets 84% to 16%. The next verse is the results of inaction, not individual sins...

26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. *The least you could have done is saved your own soul... by using the spirit!*

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some people will have more vision, more determination, and more zeal... some develop and grow, because that is what they choose! Some will work to save lost souls, some work to see the church grow, some pray for the church, plan for the church, meditate on the higher things of life. However, some have hidden their talent... it is not in use!

What talent are you hiding? Your influence? Your time? Your money? How much buried talent is there in the church?

A working church is not a small group of men and women doing the bulk of the jobs, it is the whole church at work! We have a saying "if you don't use it you lose it." By failing to use his one talent and hiding it, the servant was found to be unworthy and lost it. Are you about to lose the talent (life) God gave you, or can you learn from the parable? God doesn't expect you to do what you cannot... he only expects you to use what you have and multiply it.