



The Life of Jesus (91)

The Parable of The Talents (1)

Matthew 25:19–39



#1 The Parable of the Talents

In the parable, Jesus teaches us the importance of diligently working for the kingdom of God, using what God has entrusted us with, while waiting for His return.

A man traveled into a far country. Before he left, he called three servants and entrusted a certain amount of money to each of them according to their ability.



Even one talent is a massive amount of money—it was worth about 20 years of a day laborer's wage at that time.

While the master was gone, the first servant worked hard out of the five talents and gained five more talents. Likewise, the second servant gained two more talents.

The last servant did nothing with the one talent he had been given; he just buried it until the master came.



#2 The Parable of the Talents

After a long time, the master returned and settled accounts with them.

To the first two servants, who had gained 5 and 2 talents respectively out of the 5 and 2 talents given to them, the master said,

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.”
(Mt 25:23)



But to the last servant, who had done nothing with the talent but had hidden it under the ground, the master said, “You wicked, lazy servant!” (Mt 25:26)



Then he ordered other servants to throw the worthless servant outside.

#3 The Parable of the Talents

There are some lessons we can learn from the parable.

1. The Return of Christ

In the parable, the master went on a journey. And, even though it took a long time, he ended up coming back. Likewise, it seems to be taking a long time for Jesus to come back, there will surely come a day when He comes back.

“I am going there to prepare a place for you. **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am... I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you... **I am going away and I am coming back to you**” (Jn 14:2-3, 18, 28)

This is the promise given to all those who believe in Jesus. Even though we can't see Him physically now since He has gone to the Father in heaven, there will come a day when He comes back in His glory and we see Him face to face. **That's the day we're to fix our eyes on and wait and prepare for.**

#4 The Parable of the Talents

2. Given Talents

The master in the parable didn't just leave. Before leaving, he called his servants and entrusted them with some talents to make a profit out of them.

Here, the servants represent all believers who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord. And each believer is given a certain amount of talents according to their ability.

But the point of the parable is not really who's given more or less. What the 5, 2, and 1 talents emphasize is not the amount, but simply that they are different.

Even though we believe in the same Jesus, the gifts we are given may differ. Jesus knows each of us better than we know ourselves and He gives us the talents that fit us best.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Co 12:4, 11)

#5 The Parable of the Talents

2. Given Talents

All believers are given different gifts or talents according to their ability, character, and more. We may have different gifts, but we're to remember that they all come from the one, same Spirit, which means that **there can't be 'better' or 'worse' gifts.** They are just different.

So, what's really important for us is not to see who's given more or less and compare our gifts and others' but to acknowledge that every talent we have comes from God and **try to use it according to His purpose.**

Talents come with responsibilities. Every talent we have comes from God, and He has a purpose in giving them to us. Then, we should be careful in using the talents we have. Even though we have them now, they essentially belong to God. **We are no more than stewards of our gifts.**

#6 The Parable of the Talents

2. Given Talents

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1Pt 4:10-11)

This is the right mindset we should have when it comes to the talents we received from God. We shouldn’t use them as if they were naturally given to us to lift up ourselves. Rather, we should treat them not as lords but as faithful stewards, believing that God has given them to us with the purpose of lifting Him up for His glory. Then, we’ll be able to rightly use whatever talent we have in a way that pleases God and glorifies Him.