

# Talents more than meet the Eyes!

Matt 25:14-27

The parable of the talents is one that has been preached and taught in most if not all churches. It has been used as a tool to promote service in the church.

1. If you can Sing then sing
2. Speak then.....Speak
3. Write then.....Write
4. Paint then.....Paint
5. Play music then.....Play music

Most of us have heard the messages of you need to use it or lose it!

Despite all the good intent in urging personal activity from persons with various talents or gifts that the church could use, the message that is being expressed in this parable is not of what you were given at birth but what you were given at **Rebirth!**

Your personal blessings are just that saved or not saved....

Example:

You could jump prior to being saved. (*So you need to be on the church basketball team?*)

However; what the LORD is conveying here is that after he has given you according to your already established abilities and most importantly your faith, you should put that to work for the building of the GODS kingdom.

Please keep in mind that our battle is not in the natural but in the supernatural or spiritual. Unfortunately the parables are always expressed in the natural because of the lack of understanding of the carnal audience but they always depict spiritual truths.

## Let's look a little closer

This passage can be easily broken down into three sections.

- 1) The issuance of different amounts.
  - a. God knows what you can handle.
    1. He knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb.
    2. He knows our strengths and weaknesses.
  - b. Size does not matter.
    1. Learn to work with what you have.

## Explanation of differing amounts

The trading represents the outward life of active work for Christ.

A living faith cannot exist in the heart without manifesting itself in outward work.

The parable relates primarily to the apostles, to whom it was spoken; then to the ministers of God's Holy Word and sacraments, who are his servants, who must work for him in his Church; then to all Christians, for all belong to Christ, being bought with his blood, and all have work to do for him.

The gifts of the Spirit differ; there are great differences in energy, zeal, strength of character, spiritual eloquence. "The Spirit divideth to every man severally as he will," according to the needs of the Church, according to the **capacity of the individual servant.**

*\*Remember God will not put more on you than you can handle!*

### 2) The use of the talent

- a. 5 made 10
- b. 2 made 4
- c. 1 made 1

- 1. The excuse: "I know that thou art a hard man ....."

What?.....

How hard could God have been if he gave you the tools to make gain?

## Explanation of servants

**1<sup>st</sup> Servant:** Represents the few highly gifted and eminently faithful Christians, such as St. Paul, who could say, "By the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." The Lord recognized his diligence: "Well done," he said, in those precious words which thrill through the Christian's heart, filling him with high and blessed hope, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Servant:** He too had done his best. His gains were less than those of the first servant, but he was not so richly endowed. He had been equally faithful; he had made the best use of his humbler gifts; he was as good and holy and noble-hearted a man as his more highly gifted brother. He is welcomed with the same high praise; he receives the like reward. It is faithfulness, not gifts, which will be considered in the great day. Many men of mean capacities and poor endowments will be among the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first."

**3<sup>rd</sup> Servant:** Represents those who shrink from undertaking religious work, lest by failure in that work they incur the wrath of God and bring themselves into danger. So they do nothing for God. They own that they had hidden the talent, the grace once given to them, but at any rate they had not wasted it in riotous living or lost it by misfortunes in trade. Their lives had been at least decent and respectable. Neither are they unbelievers; they own that the talent belonged to their Lord; he had given it them, and they would restore it. "There thou hast that is thine." They are no worse than others, they say, no worse than they have always been. They will not see that this excuse is false, that negative obedience is not sufficient. They are God's servants; they belong to him; their time, health, strength, money, intellect, are not their own; all these things are God's gifts, lent to them for a while; they must give an account of their use of them at the great day of reckoning.

## Explanation of the act

The one that had received five talents went and traded with them. He lost no time; he felt the greatness of his trust, and set to work with urgency to do his best for his lord. He was successful; he increased by five talents. The second servant was equally industrious, and in proportion equally successful; each gained cent per cent; each did his master's work faithfully.

The third digged in the earth and hid his lord's money. He knew that the profit of his trading would not be his own; he did not care to labour for his lord. He represents those who neglect spiritual gifts, who do not stir up the gift of God that is in them, who quench the Spirit; and secondarily, those who use the good things of this world simply for themselves, not for the glory of God and the good of their fellow men. The talent was bidden in the earth; buried amid worldly cares and worldly amusements. The unhappy man had received the grace of God in vain; he had wasted his earthly means upon his own selfish pleasures.

### 3) The judgment

- a. Same for the 5 as the 2 "enter in to the joy of the lord"
- b. 1 got none
- c. Five got the 1

## The Judgment

"Thou wicked and slothful servant." Those most awful words put into the clearest light the solemn truth that more than freedom from gross offences is needful for salvation. The slothful servant was wicked, for he had defrauded his lord; he had not given him that service which was his bounden duty; he had lived as if he were his own master, and had only himself to please. He was wicked, too, because he made these miserable excuses; because, instead of confessing his sin, he slandered his lord. The lord repeats the servant's words in righteous indignation; he judges him out of his own mouth. If he had been such as the servant falsely said, fear, if not love, should have urged the man to do his duty. If he had feared the risks of trading, at least he should have put his lord's money to the exchangers. The returns would have been small compared with the gains of the faithful servants; but even those small returns would have shown that the servant had taken some care of his lord's interests. The Lord seems to imply that those small returns would have been accepted. Any real work for Christ is better than spiritual sloth. Some Christians are abundant in their labours; all must work if they would be saved; if they have not the energy of a St. Paul, they must help those who are foremost in Christian work with their alms and with their prayers. They must at the least show their interest in their Master's cause in this way, if they are incapable of more active exertion. And work they must, every one, in accordance with their powers. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required;" but he also to whom little is given must use that little in his Master's service. The smallness of our gifts is no excuse for sloth. The most ignorant, the very poorest, can do something for their Lord.

## In closing:

- ❖ Don't fall for the trick of the enemy and sit on what you have been awarded.
- ❖ Don't base your blessing by the size of it.
- ❖ Don't forget your gift is according to your faith (*Rom 12:3*)
- ❖ Most of all know that the talent represents the grace of God and the good news of the gospel.

**\*\*DON'T KEEP IT SHARE IT! \*\*DON'T HIDE IT USE IT!\*\*DON'T THINK YOURSELF TO GOOD FOR YOUR GOD!\*\***