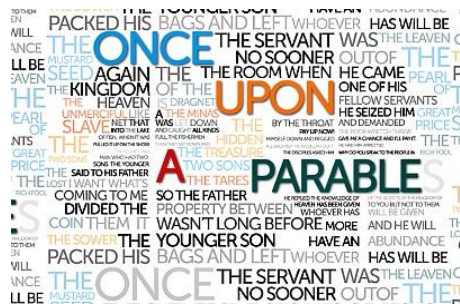


## 20190519 Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents



### The Parables of Jesus: Parable of the Talents Faber McMullen © 2019 Matthew 25:14-30

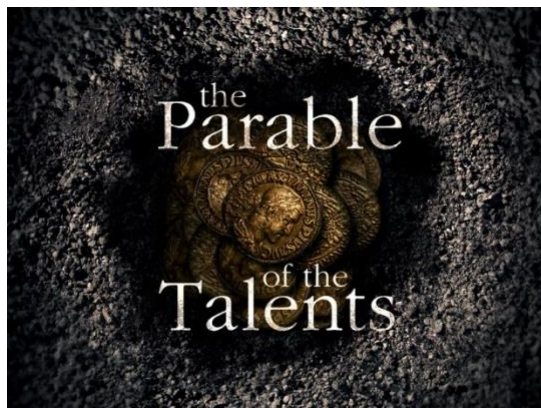


This morning we will look at another parable of Jesus. It is the parable of the talents.

It is a picture of the gifting that God gives each of us, and it is a picture of the responsibilities that go along with that gifting. Likewise, it shows clearly the consequences that we experience when we fail to use the gifts that He has given us for His glory. God gives each and every believer a "skill set" that is intended to be used for contributing to the Kingdom of God, and we will each be held accountable by God in regards to how we have used those skills.

You will remember that in Greek the word parable literally means something that is "cast alongside" something else. Jesus would "cast" a parable alongside a truth to illustrate that truth. It was a common way for rabbis to communicate a spiritual truth to their audience. It is a literary device that can be used as a teaching aid to clearly communicate a spiritual truth. Sometimes parables are referred to as 'earthly stories with heavenly meanings.'

Please stand and read along with me our key passage of this morning.



### The Parable of the Bags of Gold

*<sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went*

*off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more. <sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘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!’<sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’<sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘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!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (Matthew 25:14-30, NIV).

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD - What is it?**



Once again, Jesus says "it will be like" a man going on a journey. He is giving a picture of the way the things of God and the economy of God work with regard to the gifts that God gives each of us. We've already talked about "The Kingdom of God" on a previous Sunday. In the broadest sense, the Kingdom of Heaven/God is how all things operate from God's perspective. In speaking of the kingdom of God, Jesus is trying to communicate the way things are from God's perspective and what is going on in us, through us, and around us. Jesus likens His Kingdom as including a master who entrusts his wealth to His servants.

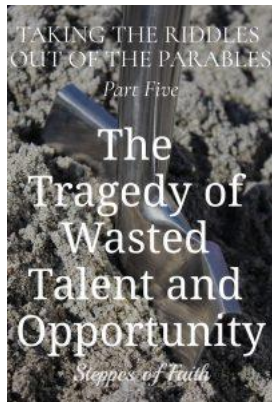
He doesn't give the same to each servant, but he gives to each according to his or her ability. God sets no one up for failure. He entrusts each of us with exactly those things which He desires for us to be good stewards over.



In the parable, He gives five bags to one servant. He gives two bags to the second, and he gives one bag of gold to the third. This is a picture of an amazing Father in heaven who entrusts His children with the riches of the Kingdom. He is a trusting God and a loving master who desires that each servant do all that he or she can do with what He may have given them. Notice that both the first and second servants wisely invested what had been given to them. Both the first and second servant doubled the bags of gold that had been given to them, and the master tells them that they will share in the master's

happiness. They are working in partnership with the master to increase his wealth. We are working in partnership with God, the master, to do the things of God here on earth.

The third servant however was distrustful of the master from the outset. He believed the master to be a cruel and harsh master. He goes further in his distrust to outright accusation. He accused the master of reaping where he had not sown and gathering where he had not scattered seed. This third servant failed to see any of the good that the master had done. In fact, he accused the master of taking what didn't belong to him, but rather profiting and benefitting from the labor of others.



Because of the third servant's wicked perspective of what was going on, the master took what little the third servant had and gave it to the first two servants.

God is telling us first, that we must trust Him and believe that He is good. We are to trust His mission and know that it is good. We are to trust His will for our lives, knowing that He is good. God made only one you and He wants to work in and through you! We are to work in partnership with God with what time, talent, and treasure He has given each of us to further His work here on earth. You see, it is through each of us that others see the heart and hands of Jesus. When we fail to be used of God with the capabilities He has given us we experience the tragedy of a wasted life. He does not intend for any of us to "play it safe" in Kingdom matters.

When I first came to Union Grove, I believe the average age of the congregation of seven was about 60 years old. As Sue Wimberly and Rick Bossum interviewed me for the position of pastor, I was just about to tell them, "Well, we're obviously in the sunset of our lives, so let's just do the best we can." It was almost like God grabbed my tongue and told me, "DON'T YOU DARE SAY SUCH A THING!" Instead, the Holy Spirit spoke through me and I said, "This is the fourth quarter, let's make it count!" The thought came to me that most football games are in fact won or lost in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter is absolutely critical. The fourth quarter is where comebacks can happen and the game is won gloriously.



In the fourth quarter, the players may be tired, but each and every move they make is critical to the winning of the game. Often coaches who are enjoying a lead, play it safe in the fourth quarter. It is when the coach "plays it safe" that the lead is blown and the game is lost. No matter where we are in our chronological lives, we should never play it safe concerning the things of God.

We should never hold back concerning the use of our time, talents, and treasure in the Kingdom of God. Why? Because none of us is promised one more day. When we woke up this morning, today is what we were given. The Bible is very clear that we are each expected to use the talents, treasure, and time we are given for the Kingdom of God.

First, realize that all of your time, talents, and treasure are from God. *"<sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* (James 1:17, NIV).

Second, realize that all of us are given differing amounts and/or different kinds of gifts. Remember that when God was instructing Moses on the building of the tabernacle, He told Moses that He had even set aside special artists and craftsmen to do His required work. Also, when Peter healed the lame man, he told him that he had no silver or gold, but he did have Jesus! <sup>6</sup> *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."* (Acts 3:6, NKJV).

Third, we must realize that the gifts we are each given are not just for our own good. Rather, they are to be used for the common good of all believers. <sup>7</sup> *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:"* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NKJV).

Fourth, we are mere stewards of the gifts that God gives us. That means that they don't belong to us, but rather they are "on loan from God." <sup>2</sup> *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."* (1 Corinthians 4:2, NKJV).

It is for His glory and not our own. <sup>23</sup> *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,* <sup>24</sup> *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.* <sup>25</sup> *But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality."* (Colossians 3:23-25, NKJV).

Sixth, don't get a big head about your use of time, talents, and treasure. Don't keep score of what you do for others because if your motives are right, you are giving to God without expectation. *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Colossians 3:17, ESV).

This duty of being a faithful servant is serious. We are not called to be mere guardians who watch over what God has entrusted us with. Rather we are all STEWARDS, charged with using the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted us with in a wise way to His glory.

Jesus made it clear that we will each be held accountable for how we use the lives that He has given us. He talks about this accountability in a conversation with Peter found in Luke chapter 12 (NABRE).

<sup>41</sup> *Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?"*

<sup>42</sup> *And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute (the) food allowance at the proper time?"*

<sup>43</sup> *Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.*

<sup>44</sup> *Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.*

<sup>45</sup> *But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk,*

<sup>46</sup> *then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful.*

<sup>47</sup> *That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely;*

<sup>48</sup> *and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*

I know a man who was called of God, but in time he became distracted by the details of life. He ceased to preach and lost the gift. He hoarded his wealth and in time it was diminished. This parable warns of this outcome. *"For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."* (Matthew 25:29, ESV).

Take some time this week and ask God to make this real to you. Concerning our time, I have noticed that we fill our schedules with our activities and interests steadily until we neglect the things of God. We're too tired to go to church because we've been doing everything else. We neglect repeating those acts of devotion we talked about last week. We neglect gathering together with other believers unless it is convenient, we are rested, and we have nothing else on our calendar to do. That is poor stewardship. We do the same thing with our money. We give to God when we've got our own shopping list taken care of. We, in essence, tip God a few pennies after we've bought ourselves that "one more thing." We also are very busy using our capabilities and talents for our own welfare, never thinking of putting those skill sets to use in taking care of Kingdom work.

Today and this week, let's recommit our lives so that He will say to each of us. *'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 your lord.'* (Matthew 25:23, NKJV).

Let us pray

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at [uniongrove362@gmail.com](mailto:uniongrove362@gmail.com) or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.