

Watch Therefore

Matthew 25:13-15



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FOCAL Read Responsively Matthew 25:13-15 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (14) **For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. (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.**

When our Lord Jesus Christ wanted to teach *eternal truths in this temporal world*, He often used *parables*, or *illustrative stories with a moral*. In this parable the Lord speaks of Himself as a Master going on a journey. Before He went on the journey He called on three of His servants, and gave each of these servants something called *a talent*.

What is a *Biblical Talent*?

A **talent** is a weight of something valuable. In the days before paper money became more acceptable (as it is today) the **so called *coin of the realm*** was either silver or gold. A **talent** weighed about *96 pounds*. A talent of *silver* - at our current prices (\$12.20 per ounce x 1536 ounces) - would be worth roughly \$18739.20. A talent of *gold* - at our current prices (\$655.00 per ounce x 1536 ounces) - would be worth roughly \$1,006,080.00. In short, a talent was worth a *lot* of money!

1. You Have All Received Great Blessing
From The Lord

FOCAL Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as **a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.**

Whether you are saved or lost, a Christian or a non-Christian, *redeemed* or *sold under sin*, a child of *the first Adam* or a child of *the Second Adam*, we have all been richly blessed by God. The Bible tells us:

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Whatever you have, God has given you. When you were born into this life God gave you unique abilities and gifts that He gave no one else.

God **delivered unto them His goods**. You received the best that God could give you – given the circumstances.

The Bible tells us that the **Son of Man** mentioned in our focal text is **Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things**. We are told in Colossians:

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him {Jesus Christ} were all things created, that are in

heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

If it's on this planet, our Lord Jesus made it. It was made **by Him and FOR Him**. He owns it all, and yet He gives it all to YOU and to ME to use for His glory. **He delivered unto them His goods**. Again in Colossians, **By Him all things consist OR ARE HELD TOGETHER**. If it is on this earth, Jesus has loaned it to us. Our very lives are His - without Him we would cease to be. **By Him all things consist**.

God owns everything. He owns YOU and He owns ME. We exist for His pleasure, and by His pleasure. He has given us everything.

Jesus Has Given Us Physical life. The Apostle Paul preached:

FOCAL Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who **called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.**

Acts 17:24-26 God that made the world and

all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; (25) Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing **he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; (26) And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;**

The Lord gave to us all **life, and breath, and all things**. You may think, "But I work for my money, I earn a living". That is true, Beloved, but you use His tools to achieve your purposes. If He takes away **life, and breath, and all things**, then you will no more earn a living for yourself and your family. He can do this - God is the Giver of Talents, the Giver of Great Treasure. It is His. **Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? (Matthew 20:15)**

The **talent of life** that God has given you is a *great treasure*.

Now, some of you may be upset because another person has *two* talents, and another *five talents*, and your yourself have only *one* talent.

Our text tells us, though, that:

FOCAL Matthew 25:15 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.

God has given talents to each one of us **according to his several ability**. God made each one of us unique, and put no more nor no less talents to our charge than what we can handle. It is God our Savior Who gives us talents based on the love He has for us. People are not the same, not made the same, and are certainly not gifted the same. God created with *variety* in mind.

DO NOT think that you are less important to God if you have been given one talent while another person is given five. No, dear One, He loves you just as much as he or she who has the greater number of talents. His love is evident in that He gives **according to your several ability**.

You are designed by Our Loving God to fulfill a specific purpose, a unique calling *for Him*.

2. The Master Requires That We Use The Talents We Have For His Glory

FOCAL Matthew 25:16-19 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. (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.**

Am I glorifying the Lord in the way I have invested my talent(s)?

Whether you have received one, two, or five talents from the Lord, you are all *equally responsible for glorifying the Master with your talents*. There is a day of reckoning coming - the Master will come back. What have you done with your talents?

Notice first of all, the Lord *commended both the five and two talent servants equally*. These men did not hide their talent in a hole in the earth. They *took what they were given* and used it to glorify the Master. The Master told both men:

FOCAL Matthew 25:21, 23 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.** ... (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.

Who received the *greater praise*? The one with the *two talents*, or the one who received the *five talents*? What was their praise based on?

The Lord never holds us accountable for that which we do not have, but He *does* hold us accountable for using that which He has given us to glorify Him! Both the man with with five talents as well as the one with the two talents doubled the Lord's investment. It mattered not at the end that one had TEN talents whereas the other had only FOUR. They did what they could with what God had given them, and were rewarded equally for their efforts.

Grace does not count the final number, but looks at what the Master gave you and how you, in Grace, invested it. The *foolish servant* did not invest the Lord's talent but *buried it in the earth*. God is not glorified when you *bury the talent He has given you!*

a. We Must Not Bury The Talent In Unbelief : You have been given one talent by God - your physical life. You are in this place today, hearing the truth of the Gospel. Jesus Christ came and died *for you*. How sad it is to hear of the Grace of God, to hear that Jesus Christ gave His life for you, and to do nothing about it. To sit there in unbelief, to refuse to accept what has been freely offered - how terrible this is! **Grace demands that you move and accept if you wish to be saved.** The first time that the word "Grace" is found in the Bible is in:

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah found Grace, was saved by Grace, but was commanded to *build an Ark* according to the specifications that the Lord gave. Noah found Grace, but did not sit there in unbelief after finding Grace. If he had, he would have been treading water with the rest of creation. No, dear friends, Noah found Grace and as a result of Grace *gave himself to God*. He built an Ark, according to the pattern that God gave him, and he and his family were saved.

Too many people take the talent of life that God has given them and *bury the talent in the soil of unbelief*. Some people *do not believe* that they are "bad enough" to go to hell. They hear the words of this parable:

FOCAL Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

and think, "This has nothing to do with me". But it has everything to do with you, dear friends, if you have not believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says:

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one

that hangeth on a tree:

The Grace of God sent Jesus Christ to that Hill called Calvary. Our Lord Jesus hung on that tree, that Old Rugged Cross, for us. Have you believed in Him, or do you still bury your life in the world? Have you surrendered all that is you to Him, or are you still marching to Satan's tune in this present darkness? We are told in Titus that we are to be ...

Titus 2:13-14a ... looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; (14) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity ...

If you are a Christian, then you know that Jesus Christ is your Redeemer. It is He Who paid the penalty for your sins. Hear Him, dear one, while there is yet time.

Do not be like the **rich man** who *buried the talent of his life in seeking worldly riches*. He rejected the Savior, and suffers *even now* in flames of his own consent.

He cried out to Abraham:

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Oh, what a waste, to be tormented in the flames of Hell, when Christ has paid the penalty of sin already! To see Him on the Cross, wounded and bleeding, is a shocking thing to me. But to see the unbeliever who has buried his or her life in the dirt of this earth, to see the unbeliever reject the Savior Who gave His life so willingly for his salvation, this should take your breath away! You have been given the talent of *physical life* - please, dear ones, call upon the Name of Jesus and receive *spiritual life*. To fail to do so will not bring glory to the Master - and will lead you to eternal damnation!

b. There Is A Discipline Inherent To Grace:

FOCAL Matthew 25:19 After a long time **the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.**

Somehow people have begun to confuse *The Grace of God* with *License*. There are some under the umbrella of Christianity that do not understand that *with the Grace of God comes accountability*.

The Christian is a person *saved by God to work for God*.

If you are a believer in Christ you *live in the valley between the first and the second Coming of Christ*.

You look backward to the time when Grace manifested Himself in a manger. Grace grew up, lived, walked among mere mortal men. Grace died for us on that Tree

we call Calvary. Grace rose again.

John 1:14, 17 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ... (17) For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

We look *backwards to the empty tomb, trusting Him*, but we look *forwards, knowing that He is coming again*. This is the point of the parable of the talents. Jesus gave talents, then departed - but He is coming again. If Jesus Christ is your Savior then you should always be ...

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

This is God our Savior Who will return for us.

If you belong to Him, serve Him, glorify Him,, worship Him, magnify Him in your lives. Be faithful with the talent that you have been given!

c. We Must Not Bury The Talent In Apathy One of my favorite stories in the Scripture is of an ancient Judge in Israel called **Shamgar**. The Bible doesn't say a whole lot about Shamgar, but it does say this:

Judges 3:31 ... Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

What was Shamgar's "claim to fame"? He killed - in battle, mind you - **six hundred men with an ox goad**. What the heck is an *ox goad*? It is merely a *pointy stick that you use to prod an oxen in order to get it to move*. This man killed *six hundred* seasoned warriors with a pointy stick! That, dear friends, just amazes me!

Grace always *leads upward, not downward*. Grace does not draw to sloth, but to service! The person who is focused on Christ their Savior will work hard for Him. The servant knows that His Master cometh! When the Master comes, there WILL be an accounting!

d. We Must Not Make Excuses For Burying The Talent

If you are saved, *redeemed by the Blood of Christ*, then you belong to God. The unprofitable servant *blamed the Master* for his failure to invest his talent:

Matthew 25: 24-25 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, **Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed: (25) And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the**

earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His excuse was "I didn't think that I was able to do anything to please you. I was afraid, so I hid the talent and did nothing". The Christian, the Redeemed of God, has no need to *fear*. We do not need to fear failure – God is with us. The Bible tells us:

Philippians 2:13-16 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure. (14) Do all things without murmurings and disputings: (15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (16) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.**

If God has given us the talent, then He surely wishes us to invest it. The Apostle said:

Philippians 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

You are not saved and redeemed to *fear God* – you are saved and *empowered to serve God*. Invest your talent! If you know Him as Savior, step out on faith,

doing what He has called you to do.

How sad to look back over your life and think of all the things *you could have done, but didn't, because you feared*. Have faith in God, love Him, serve Him.

If you belong to Jesus, act like it! **Remember, it is God's Will to**

Titus 2:14b, ... purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

May God touch your hearts with these words!

