

The Talented and Gifted Program

By Mary Kane



The Parable of the Talents was spoken by Jesus just days, possibly hours before His crucifixion. Within this parable, Jesus gave instructions to all of His followers on how to live life on earth while waiting for His return. Let's look at this parable and apply its wisdom to our own lives.

Please read Matthew 25:14-30.

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Please look at verse 14 again. Before the man left for a far country, he called his servants to him and delivered his goods to them. Each servant was given specific responsibilities. Most likely these servants had lived with their master a long time and were knowledgeable of the details of the master's business. They were capable of skillfully managing the master's business in his absence.

What did the two servants do who received the five and the two talents? They developed their talents and doubled them before the Master returned home. What did the servant do who received one talent? He took the Master's talent and buried it in the ground.

When the Master returned, He commended the first two servants for using their talents wisely—they doubled the Master's goods in His absence. The good and faithful servants receive their reward; greater responsibility and the joy of the Master.

The wicked and lazy servant, on the other hand buried his talents. The lazy servant lost what he would not use, therefore he forfeited his reward—the joy of his master.

¹ http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photog.php?photogid=3840

As I was writing this, I noticed a few things about the good and faithful servants:

- They used their talents.
- They expanded their talents.
- They did not use their talents for personal gain, but for the Master's gain.

Bridge:

Before the master (Jesus) leaves for a far country (heaven), He calls His servants (all believers) to Him and delivers His goods (gifts) to them. According to verse 15, Jesus has given gifts to us that match the natural abilities and personal character that He bestowed upon us during our creation.

God has given every Christian gifts to be used for His kingdom. Every believer has been equipped to: make disciples, edify the body of Christ, and bring glory to God. With our "gifting" comes responsibility.

How can you use your talents to further the Master's kingdom?

Like the good and faithful servants, God wants us to expand our gifts so we can use them more effectively for His kingdom work.

How can you expand your talents?

We must also realize that God did not gift us to draw attention to ourselves (no flesh shall glory in His presence).

How can you safeguard yourself from stealing God's glory?

Prayer:

Dearest Holy Father,

Thank you that You have given us gifts to be used to further Your kingdom on earth. Your Word says that we bring You great joy when we use our gifts as You have intended.

Please help us to take a warning from the wicked lazy servant and not bury our gifts out of fear. You did not give us a spirit of fear but of power, sound mind and love.

Please help us to be like the good and faithful servants: Let us take a chance, step out in faith today and use the gifts that You have given us. As Romans 12:9 states, we will use our gifts in proportion to our faith so please grow our faith, Dear Lord.

In Jesus Holy Name,

Amen.

Jesus, while upon this earth, lived to do the will of the Father. He did not come to be served but to give His life as a ransom for many. During Holy Week, as we follow Jesus to the cross, let us commit to use our gifts as Jesus did—for the glory of God.

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