

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

Introduction: The Parable of the Virgins emphasized the need of being prepared. This parable emphasizes the need of service. The term “the Kingdom of Heaven” is in italics and shows that this term was not in the original. The idea, however, is there from the other parable. The parable shows how Jesus will deal with professed Christians when He returns.

I. The householder in the parable representing Jesus, verse 14.

- A. The householder is about to go into a far country.
(Before he goes he calls his servants and delivers to them all his good.)
- B. This represents what Jesus did before he went away to heaven.
 - 1. Jesus gave His church charge over all His earthly affairs.
 - 2. He gave the church the responsibility of preaching the gospel.
 - 3. He gave the church the responsibility of baptizing.
 - 4. He gave the church the responsibility of presenting and defending Bible truth.
 - 5. Intended this assignment for each church throughout the world and throughout the years until He returns.

II. The talents representing individual opportunity and responsibility, verse 15.

- A. In addition to their responsibility as a group, he gave each servant one or more talents to be responsible for.
 - 1. To one he gave five talents, to one two talents, and to one only one talent.
 - 2. The word “talent” originally meant “circle” like a cake of bread.
(However it came to mean a cake of gold and eventually was applied to gold coins.)
 - 3. These were very heavy and very valuable and thus the man with only one talent had no small sum.
- B. He gave these talents according to their ability.
 - 1. No man was without a talent.
 - 2. The man with the greatest ability received the greatest number.
 - 3. The man with the least ability received the least number.
- C. These talents represent the giving of individual opportunity and individual responsibility of professed Christians.
 - 1. Not only does each church have the Great Commission but each Christian is given the opportunity and responsibility of service to Jesus Christ.
 - 2. To some is given more opportunity, but to them there is more responsibility.
 - 3. But none are without opportunity to serve the Lord and none are without responsibility to do so.

III. What the three servants do with their talents representing what professed Christians do, verses 16-18.

- A. The one with five talents “went and traded with the same and made them other five talents,” verse 16.
 - 1. He traded (literally “worked”). That is he bought and sold.
 - 2. He kept at it until he made a profit of five talents. (100%)
- B. The one with two talents also traded until he made two more talents, verse 17.
- C. The one with one talent buried his talent.
(He worked too, but not for his master. His work was for self, verse 18.)
- D. This represents that some of the Lord's servants are faithful; some are not.
(Some are more productive for the Lord than others; some are not productive at all.)

IV. The return of the householder representing the return of Jesus, verse 19.

- A. The householder was gone for a long time, but he did return.
 - 1. Jesus, too, has been gone for a long time.
 - 2. But He has promised to return and He will.
- B. The householder reckoned with his servants when he returned and so will Jesus reckon with His servants.
 - 1. They will give account of their time.
(All of their time including how many Sundays they were in church.)
 - 2. They will give account of their language, Matthew 12:36.
 - 3. They will give account of their deeds.
 - 4. They will give account of their money.
 - 5. They will give account of all their possessions.
(All belongs to the Lord and He only gave it to us to use for His honor and glory. We should be thankful for what He has given us.)

V. The rewards for their service representing rewards which Jesus will give His servants, verses 20-30.

- A. The one with five talents was richly rewarded, verses 20-21.
 - 1. He had been faithful in his service to the master.
 - 2. He was rewarded very generously. (Faithful in the few things he was required to do; he would be made ruler over many things. He would enter into joyous celebrations.)
- B. The one with two talents was also richly rewarded, verses 22-23.
 - 1. He did not accomplish as much as the other, but he was faithful to use what abilities and opportunities he had.
 - 2. He too was commended and richly rewarded.
- C. The one with only one talent was rebuked and punished, verses 24-30.
 - 1. He offered excuses, but his excuses were not accepted, verses 24-27.
 - 2. He should have at least invested the money so that it would make interest, verse 27.
 - 3. The one talent that was given was taken away, verses 28-29.
 - 4. He was cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- D. This faithful servant represents faithful servants of Christ who will be richly rewarded.
- E. This unfaithful servant represents the unsaved person who is a professed Christian.
 - 1. He has the opportunity and responsibility of being saved but he does not do so.
 - 2. None of his service to the Master is fruitful or beneficial.
 - 3. His opportunity will be taken from Him. (All he has will be taken from him.)
 - 4. He will be cast into everlasting torment.
 - 5. Some who are saved are no doubt almost as fruitless as this servant.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you saved?
- 2. Are you using your talents for the Lord?
- 3. Are you aware that Jesus is coming soon and that you will give account to Him?
- 4. Would you not like the Lord to say, "Well done" to you?
- 5. What are you going to do about it?

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