

S.E.R.V.I.C.E.

Matthew 25:14-28

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went away.

16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.

18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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. Cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Jesus wants NO believer to be idle.

“It is the real Christian's liberty and privilege to be employed as his Redeemer's servant, in promoting his glory, and the good of his people: the love of Christ constrains him to live no longer to himself, but to Him that died for him, and rose again” (Matthew Henry).

WE ARE TO BE IN S.E.R.V.I.C.E TO GOD

SPECIAL (OWNERSHIP)

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went away” (25:14-15).

- Everything I have belongs to God
- God enTRUSTS US with His resources!
- We have received our all from him and have nothing we call our own – except our SIN!
- Our receiving from Him is in order to serve (WORK) FOR Him!

EMPOWER (ALLOCATION)

“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went away” (25:15).

- God has given me SOME talents (gifts, abilities, insights, etc.)
- God’s talents WITHIN US are to be used SUCCESSFULLY (Joshua 1:7-8)
- Ability has nothing to do with “more importance” – just different abilities (Romans 12).

RESPONSIBILITY (ACCOUNTABILITY)

“After a long time, the Master of those servants returned and settled accounts” (25:19).

- Master of THOSE servants. He didn’t leave them to someone else to oversee. The MASTER took on just as much RESPONSIBILITY as the SERVANTS!
- God EXPECTS me to USE my talents.
- One day He will ask: “What did you do with what you were given?”

VENTURE (UTILIZATION)

“He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money (25:16-18).

- It is wrong for me to bury what God gave me
- I must serve God’s plan – not my wants, desires, fears
- I can’t please God by playing it safe in life

INITIATIVE (MOTIVATION)

“Master...I was afraid and went out and hid your talent” (25:15).

- FEAR keeps me from using my talents
- The IMPROVEMENT of my NATURAL POWERS does NOT ELICIT God’s GRACE.
- God’s plan always includes...TRUST in Him (NOT MYSELF)

COURAGE (APPLICATION)

“So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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” (25:28-29).

- IF I don’t USE it, it will TAKEN AWAY
- This ISN’T in ISOLATION. The DISOBEDIENT servant had 2 SUPERSTARS next to him!

EXPECTATIONS (COMPENSATION)

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master’” (25:20 and 23).

- IF I use my TALENT WISELY, I will be REWARDED
- WHAT IS WISELY? ACCORDING TO THE MASTER (NOT ME!)

So...WHERE ARE YOU?

- Are you IN SERVICE to God through Jesus,
- or are you WORKING for YOURSELF??

“Those who think it impossible to please God, and in vain to serve him, will do nothing to purpose in religion. They complain that He requires of them more than they are capable of, and punishes them for what they cannot help. Whatever they may pretend, the fact is, they dislike the character and work of the Lord.”

“The slothful servant is sentenced to be deprived of his talent. This may be applied to the blessings of this life; but rather to the means of grace. Those who know not the day of their visitation, shall have the things that belong to their peace hid from their eyes. His doom is, to be cast into outer darkness. It is a usual way of expressing the miseries of the damned in hell. Here, as in what was said to the faithful servants, our Saviour goes out of the parable into the thing intended by it, and this serves as a key to the whole. Let us not envy sinners, or covet any of their perishing possessions” (Matthew Henry).