**The Parable of the Talents**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

The parable of the talents is not an emphasis on *waiting*, it's an emphasis on *working.*

Whenever you see “the Kingdom of Heaven,” one of two things is meant.

1. Used for the exclusive body of *redeemed* people.
2. Used to refer to the visible Kingdom, made up of people who identify themselves with Christ....some are genuine and some are *imposters.*

Jesus is talking about two kinds of servants, the kind who *use* their opportunity and the kind who *waste* it. (But both of them identify themselves as servants of the Lord.)

*15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.* Matthew 25:15

*The master* apportions out to them that which he believes they are capable of dealing with well.

Talent - a weight whose value would depend on what it was made of

Each man's ability was that which determined what he received. Some people had *greater capacity* to handle a large amount than other people did.

Master = Jesus

Long journey = the Lord returning for some time to heaven

Servants = Believers who are to be managers of HIS assets.

Some of us were given a bag weighing one, some weighing two and some five. This is GOD”S PLAN. It's a picture of *spiritual capacity* and responsibility and opportunity.

God deserves and desires *maximum return* on His investment.

The one who has the very least opportunity is equally *responsible*.

*19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.* Matthew 25:19

While His return is not going to be as quickly as they think it is, He doesn't want them to *sit, soak, and wait* for the Kingdom.

You can go through life with great *anticipation* of the Lord’s review, if you are pouring out your life to serve Him and build His kingdom.

The master lavishes this servant with great *reward and responsibility* because of his obedience and faithfulness.

Eternity will be a time of *service.* Rewards for the believer are basically greater opportunities for service.

There are two things that expose the third servant as an imposter…

1. There was no *fruit.*
2. He truly doesn’t know the Master by His *skewed* characterization of Him.

*I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed…*

He *pretended* to be a servant but he doesn't know his master.

*28So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.29For 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. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’* Matthew 25:28-30

The true and faithful servant receives more privilege, more opportunity for service. Jesus will take it away from the *imposters.*

This is not a true servant who *lost* their salvation because they were not faithful to serve.

The Parable’s Take-Aways:

* My stewardship is a privileged responsibility for which I will be held *accountable.*
* Both the opportunity to work and be rewarded is a testimony to the *grace* of God.
* There is a danger of *hoarding* that which God wants me to invest for eternal priorities.
* During the absence of Christ, believers should work *diligently* with the responsibilities with which we have been entrusted.
* The certainty of future judgment ought to promote *faithfulness* in your daily living.