

The

P
A
R
A
B
L
E

of the

T
A
L
E
N
T
S

Matt.
25:14-30

The greatest
Gift
is Love

Jesus often spoke in parables, stories to help us understand spiritual truths. Today we use analogies to help others understand what we are saying. An example of that would be: Eating a balanced meal is like putting high octane fuel into your gas tank.

When Jesus is speaking about the talents, he isn't just talking about money. He is also talking about the gifts, spiritual and physical, he has given us to help promote His Kingdom.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same LORD. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and still to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor. 12:4-11

When God gives you the gift (or talent) to do something, like reaching out to your neighbors, when you are consistent in using that ability to reach out to your neighbors, he will add on another gift, such as leading a small group. When you use that ability for God's Kingdom, He will add on another ability, such as speaking in front of groups, and so on and so on. These talents (gifts) are added to you by the will of the Spirit.

However; if God gave you the gift of encouraging others, and you are too afraid to use it, not only will he not add to your gifts and talents, but he will take your talent away and give it to someone that will use it.

A way to help understand this better, is like a parent giving a child a gift only to discover he never plays with it. Eventually, seeing that gift is going to waste, the parents give it away to someone else that will use it.

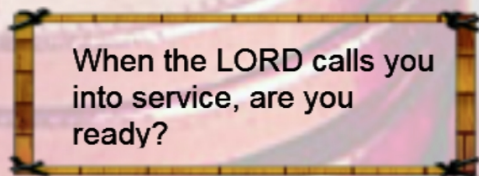
God really wants us to understand the spiritual truths revealed in the parables. This is why the parables often relate to family, relationships, farming, working, jobs, fishing, etc., because these are things that happen in our every day lives, making it easier for us to process the information we are reading.

Another way to relate the parable to our modern times, is to compare it to beginning a new job. When hired, your responsibilities are minimal. Once you become proficient in the initial job duties, more responsibilities are added. When your boss sees that you are capable and reliable to take on more responsibilities, you get a promotion. As time goes by, you get more responsibilities and more promotions.

If, however; you are found to be lazy, and unwilling to do the job you were hired to do...you get fired and someone new gets hired to replace you.

Do you want to be the one with all of the promotions? How willing are you to do what is asked of you? How willing are you to be patient in waiting for the promotions?

God is not mocked. Gal. 6:7
...but God knoweth your hearts...
Luke 15:16



For where your treasure is, there your heart is also. Luke 12:34

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. Luke 12:31

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:8

Are you using your God-given talents and gifts for God's Kingdom?
or only for yourself?



The

P A R A B L E

of the

T A L E N T S

**Matt.
25:14-30**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a long journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to this ability. Then he went on his journey, The man who received five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master', he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more!'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

The man with two talents also came. 'Master', he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more'.

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Then the man with who received the one talent came. 'Master', he said, 'I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

He replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. For everyone who has, will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" Matt 25:14-32

