

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Study Series: Speaking in Parables
Lesson 15: The Parable of the Talents

Wednesday, May 17, 2023
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Intro: **The Parable Of The Bags Of Gold**, better known as **The Parable Of The Talents** has numerous lessons and applications. It is one of the most well known and often discussed parables of Jesus. This parable offers valuable lessons about stewardship, responsibility, and faithfulness, and it challenges the reader to use the gifts and resources God has given them to serve His purposes and bring Him glory.

Read: Matt. 25:14-30 NIV The Parable Of The Bags Of Gold (Talents)

Immediate Application

The parable tells the story of a man/master who entrusts his slaves (gr. doulos) with different amounts of talents (unit of measure for gold/silver) before going away on a journey. Upon his return, the master rewards the two servants who invested His gold/silver wisely but punishes the one who buried His gold/silver out of fear. The parable of the talents serve as an encouragement and warning to all believers in Christ. We will use the words "Talents" and "Gold" interchangeably

Overarching Themes

1. The Kingdom Of Heaven - Every parable is an earthly story with a spiritual/heavenly meaning. In essence, the Kingdom of Heaven is the realm of God's sovereign rule, where His will is done and His purposes are accomplished. It is a realm where all things are brought into submission to God and His will. As believers, we are called to live in and advance the Kingdom Of Heaven, proclaiming the life saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and living in obedience to God's commands. Luke 17:20-21 "The Kingdom of Heaven is in you."

2. New Testament Stewardship is a biblical principle that emphasizes the responsible and intentional management of the resources and gifts entrusted to believers by God. It involves recognizing that everything we have ultimately belongs to God and using these resources for His purposes, including giving generously, serving others, and cultivating a heart of gratitude and contentment. 1 Pet.4:10-11

3. The Ascension of Christ and His Imminent Return - Matt. 24:14 speaks of a man going on a journey and Matthew 25:19 of that same man returning. Read Acts 1:10 & 11; John 14:12; 1 Thess. 4:16-17

4. Gold is often used in the Bible to symbolize various spiritual realities and concepts such as:

1. The glorious realities of heaven Rev. 4:4; 5:8; 21:18-21
2. The believer's life and his/her works on this earth 1 Cor. 3:11-15 The gold, silver, and precious stones in the lives of believers will survive God's refining fire (v. 13)
3. God-given gifts and provisions, be they physical/material such as time/money/commodities and spiritual such as the gifts of the spirit, the anointing/power of God and talents, aptitudes, skills, endowments, Matt. 25:15 "to each according to his ability" James 1:17

QUESTION: 4 overarching themes are listed above, can you think of any others?

Greater Application: The parable of the bags of gold/talents teaches that slaves of Christ, show their love and loyalty for Him by bringing improvement and increase to everything that The Lord has entrusted to our care (this is the essence of biblical stewardship)

Five qualities of the good and faithful slaves:

1. **Diligent:** Both of the faithful slaves were diligent in using the talents they were given to produce more. They did not waste or squander what was entrusted to them, but worked hard to make the most of it.
2. **Responsible:** The faithful slaves recognized that the talents did not belong to them, but were given to them to manage on behalf of their master. They took their responsibility seriously and worked to increase what was entrusted to them.
3. **Courageous:** The faithful slaves took risks and invested the talents, even though there was no guarantee of success. They trusted their master and were willing to take bold steps to make the most of what was given to them.
4. **Resourceful:** The faithful slaves used their skills and abilities to maximize the potential of the talents. They did not just sit on what was given to them, but actively sought out ways to improve and increase its value.
5. **Faithful:** The faithful slaves were faithful to their master, even when he was not present. They did not take advantage of his absence or use the talents for their own benefit, but worked hard to honor their master's trust and increase his wealth.

Their reward: Enter into the joy of your Lord! Vss 21 & 23 Which is another way of saying Enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

QUESTION: How does this parable challenge your view of success?

Five incompetencies of the wicked and worthless slave:

1. **Fear:** The wicked slave was fearful and lacked faith, which led him to bury his talent instead of investing it. (Matthew 25:25)
2. **Laziness:** The wicked slave was lazy and did not use the talent he was given to produce more. He did not take any risks or put in any effort to increase what he had been given. (Matthew 25:26)
3. **Selfishness:** The wicked slave was selfish and only concerned with himself. He did not use his talent to benefit others or contribute to the master's wealth. (Matthew 25:18)
4. **Disobedience:** The wicked slave was disobedient to the master's instructions. The master had entrusted him with a talent to use and multiply, but he did not follow through with his responsibility. (Matthew 25:27)
5. **Lack of understanding:** The wicked slave lacked an understanding of the master's character and nature. He saw the master as a harsh and demanding person, which made him afraid to take any risks or invest the talent he was given. (Matthew 25:24)

His punishment: 1. What he had was taken away and given to another vs 28 2. He was cast into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Vs 30

QUESTION: How does this parable challenge your view of failure?

QUESTION: Which servant do you identify with the most?

