

The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 3 Lesson 13

Supplemental Texts

Luke 19:11-27

Focus Verse

“For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.” – Matthew 25:29

Introduction

In the parable of the ten virgins, we learned about the importance of watching and waiting for the return of Jesus Christ, and in this parable, our attention is directed to being faithful in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. The parable points to the soon departure of Jesus Christ from the earth to heaven and His injunction to all His disciples, including you. It shows the amount of trust our Lord and Savior places in every individual who is born again.

Deeper Look

Travelling Into A Far Country – Matt 25:14-23

The man travelling into a faraway country is Jesus Christ. He is telling us that His followers, from the time of the apostles to our time, are called and given talents, with which they should trade and multiply while He is away. We are given talents (gifts) based on our differing abilities to improve them. For example, five talents might be adequate for some people, and one might be too little for some. It behooves us to employ our talents faithfully and humbly (1 Cor 4:7).

We must conduct ourselves like the two servants who used and doubled their talents before their master returned. Doing this entails full commitment to the cause of our Master, Jesus. The two servants were found to be equally faithful; however, the servant with the one talent was not. His misrepresentation of his master and the fear of what would become of him, should he lose or misuse the talent, overtook him and led him to a bad judgment. Faithfulness will be rewarded!

Reaping Where You Have Not Sown – Matt 25:24-30

Bear in mind that no one is excused for not using one's talents. The lazy servant ascribed his master as one impossible to serve and please. Be careful not to allow this mindset to permeate your mind. The talents God gives us bless us and others alike, and they must be improved. God cannot be blamed for our failure. The servant's words judged him right: if his master were that bad, as he said, he should have given his talent to the exchangers to trade with it and escape his master's wrath. There are consequences for failing to use our talents. Occupy till Jesus comes!

Questions

1. What does each of the following represent in our text?
 - The man travelling –
 - The servants –
 - The talents –
 - The exchangers –
2. Why did the master give different amounts of talents to his servants? Does God give us the same abilities? What happens if all members of a local church have the same abilities?
3. How will you react if you are given more talents? How will you react if you are given less? What are your talents? Are there more talents to be discovered as you grow in the Lord? Explain.
4. The first two servants doubled their talents upon the return of their master. How can we improve or multiply our talents? Which of these servants was more faithful to his master? Why? What talent(s) are you working to improve?
5. Why did the two servants trade with their talents? What did they do upon their master's return? How did their master react to their success? What are the benefits of employing our talents (See Eph 4:11-12)?
6. Is there any truth in how the servant given one talent characterized his master? Explain. How could his words be used to judge himself? What other way could he have made gains for his master?

Personal Meditation

God did not save you so that you could glide to heaven or to fold your arms when there are things to accomplish for His kingdom. Rather, He saved you and created a place for you in His vineyard that will equip and inspire you to employ your God-given talents. You are created unto good works (Eph 2:10)! Jesus says in Luke 19:13, “*Occupy till I come.*” This means we must utilize our talents and improve them while He is preparing a place for us in heaven (John 14:2,3).

The Church of Christ is built up by Christ, in Christ, and for Christ. Its growth is entirely in the hands of God, but He wants to involve us in His kingdom work (1 Cor 3:6-8). Surrendering to God is the first step; He will work on us to make us fit for the work He wants us to do. As we read, He will not require us to do beyond what we can do. He is a just and loving God. Our talents are to be used for witnessing and edifying the Church, the body of Christ (1 Cor 12; Eph 4:11,12).

Let us learn from the lazy servant. If he were unsure of what to do with his talent, he could have asked from his master or his fellow servants. So, do you know what to do with yours?

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 25:14-15
Tuesday	Matt 25:16-18
Wednesday	Matt 25:19-21
Thursday	Matt 25:22-23
Friday	Matt 25:24-27
Saturday	Matt 25:28-30



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