

Jesus' Parable of The Talents

In His kingdom God has given citizens differing gifts and opportunities to serve Him according to their abilities

Introduction

- A parable is an earthly story designed to teach a spiritual lesson through a comparison
- Many parables focused on the nature of the kingdom of God, its King and its citizens
- Today, Jesus' church is the visible manifestation of His kingdom

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Introduction

- The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus is coming again
- On that day, the dead will be raised, the living will be transformed and all humanity will give account of how they served the Lord
- It is also clear that the exact day of the Lord's coming is unknown

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Introduction

- Regarding how citizens of His kingdom, His church, should behave in view of His coming, Jesus speaks two parables
- First, the parable of the ten virgins, five foolish and five wise, teaches Christians must be watchful and prepared at His coming
- Next the parable of the talents teaches about three slaves who received different numbers of talents

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Introduction

- A talent was a certain weight of money totaling 6,000 denarii
- A denarius was equal to one day's wages for a common laborer
- The main point is that Christians must use their God-given gifts and opportunities to be faithful and fruitful in His service
- Although individual abilities and talents differ, all must be productive in His service

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Jesus' Parable of The Talents

1. Background
2. The parable
3. Applications

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Parable of The Ten Virgins A Warning To Be Watchful and Prepared

Mat 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mat 25:2 "Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

Mat 25:3 "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

Mat 25:4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

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Parable of The Ten Virgins A Warning To Be Watchful and Prepared

Mat 25:5 "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep.

Mat 25:6 "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.'

Mat 25:7 "Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

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Parable of The Ten Virgins A Warning To Be Watchful and Prepared

Mat 25:8 "The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

Mat 25:9 "But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.'

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Parable of The Ten Virgins A Warning To Be Watchful and Prepared

Mat 25:10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.

Mat 25:11 "Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'

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Parable of The Ten Virgins A Warning To Be Watchful and Prepared

Mat 25:12 "But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

Mat 25:13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

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Talents Given To Three Slaves According To Their Abilities

Mat 25:14 "For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

Mat 25:15 "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

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Two Slaves Increase Their Talents But The Third Hides His One Talent

Mat 25:16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.

Mat 25:17 "In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more.

Mat 25:18 "But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his master's money.

13

Two Slaves Who Multiplied Their Talents Are Rewarded

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

Mat 25:20 "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

14

Two Slaves Who Multiplied Their Talents Are Rewarded

Mat 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Mat 25:22 "Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.'

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Two Slaves Who Multiplied Their Talents Are Rewarded

Mat 25:23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

16

The Fearful Wicked Lazy Slave Who Hid His One Talent Was Punished

Mat 25:24 "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*.

Mat 25:25 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

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The Fearful Wicked Lazy Slave Who Hid His One Talent Was Punished

Mat 25:26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*.

Mat 25:27 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest.'

18

The Fearful Wicked Lazy Slave Who Hid His One Talent Was Punished

Mat 25:28 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

Mat 25:29 "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

19

The Fearful Wicked Lazy Slave Who Hid His One Talent Was Punished

Mat 25:30 "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

20

All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Are Given By God

Mat 25:14 "For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

1Pe 4:10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Are Given By God

1Pe 4:11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Are Given By God

Eph 5:14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

Eph 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Are Given By God

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph 3:18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Are Given By God

Eph 3:19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Eph 3:21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Differ According To Our God-Given Abilities

Mat 25:15 "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Differ According To Our God-Given Abilities

Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Differ According To Our God-Given Abilities

Rom 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

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All Talents (Gifts and Opportunities) Differ According To Our God-Given Abilities

Rom 12:7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

Rom 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

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Lessons From The Parable of The Talents

1. All talents (gifts and opportunities) are given by God
2. All talents (gifts and opportunities) differ according to our God-given abilities

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Summary of The Parable of The Talents

- Talents given to three slaves according to their abilities
- Two slaves increase their talents but the third hides his one talent
- Two slaves who multiplied their talents are rewarded
- The fearful wicked lazy slave who hid his one talent was punished

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Lessons From The Parable of The Talents

1. All talents (gifts and opportunities) are given by God
2. All talents (gifts and opportunities) differ according to our God-given abilities

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Mat 25:16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

2Pe 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and
the appearing of the glory of our great God
and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem
us from every lawless deed, and to purify for
Himself a people for His own possession,
zealous for good deeds.

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles,
and some as prophets, and some as
evangelists, and some as pastors and
teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for
the work of service, to the building up of the
body of Christ;

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of
the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of
God, to a mature man, to the measure of the
stature which belongs to the fullness of
Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be
children, tossed here and there by waves
and carried about by every wind of doctrine,
by the trickery of men, by craftiness in
deceitful scheming;

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we
are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is
the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being
fitted and held together by what every joint
supplies, according to the proper working of
each individual part, causes the growth of
the body for the building up of itself in love.

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Col 1:9 For this reason also, since the day
we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray
for you and to ask that you may be filled with
the knowledge of His will in all spiritual
wisdom and understanding,

Col 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner
worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all
respects, bearing fruit in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God;

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By Grace Through Faith and Prayer We
Must Be Faithful and Fruitful In His Service

Col 1:11 strengthened with all power,
according to His glorious might, for the
attaining of all steadfastness and patience;
joyously

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who
has qualified us to share in the inheritance
of the saints in Light.

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
Now Will Share In His Eternal Glory

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

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Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
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Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Col 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
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2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
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2Pe 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
Now Will Share In His Eternal Glory

Rev 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
Rev 22:2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
Now Will Share In His Eternal Glory

Rev 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
Rev 22:4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

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Those Who Faithfully Use Their Talents
Now Will Share In His Eternal Glory

Rev 22:5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

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Unfaithful, Fearful, Wicked, Lazy
Slaves Will Be Eternally Punished

Mat 25:24 "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*.
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Unfaithful, Fearful, Wicked, Lazy Slaves Will Be Eternally Punished

Mat 13:41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

Mat 13:42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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Unfaithful, Fearful, Wicked, Lazy Slaves Will Be Eternally Punished

Jas 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

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Lessons From The Parable of The Talents

1. All talents (gifts and opportunities) are given by God
2. All talents (gifts and opportunities) differ according to our God-given abilities
3. By grace through faith and prayer we must be faithful and fruitful in his service
4. Those who faithfully use their talents now will share in His eternal glory
5. Unfaithful, fearful, wicked, lazy slaves will be eternally punished

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