



The Parables of Jesus

“Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” -Matthew 25:20-21

Parable
of the

Talents

Parable Reminders

- A Parable is not a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a casting or placing side by side to a real event or to compare likeness or similitude to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

THE

RICH FOOL

L u k e 1 2 : 1 3 - 2 1



Parable of the Rich Fool

■ Our Responsibility

- We who are alive need to make the right kind of investments, with our eyes focused on wealth towards Our Father – while it is still not too late for us
- ✓ Consider **I Timothy 6:17-19**. "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."
- ✓ Consider the message to church at Laodicea **Revelation 3:14-22**. "...I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot...because you are lukewarm...I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing', and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked...Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent..."

Parable of the Rich Fool

■ Our Responsibility

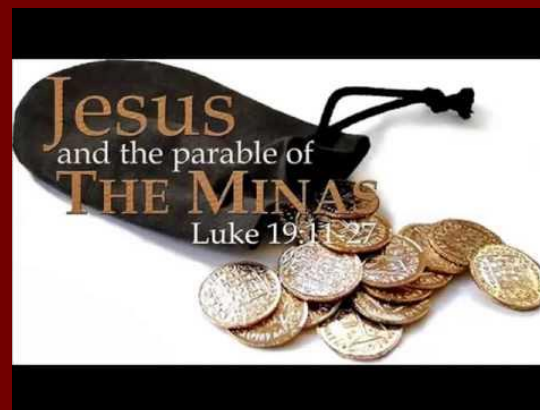
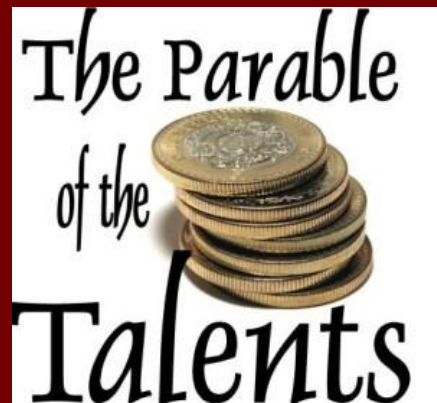
- ✓ Considering the context and symbols of the parable of the Rich Fool, it appears that his riches and the prospect of having more, he lived out his life on earth as if this were all there is, failing to prepare for the life to come. One day, sooner than he expected, he found out that he was wrong. When God called him, he was faced with the fact that all the wealth in the world could do nothing for him. The accounts were closed and could not be altered.



Context: Parable of the Talents & Pounds

■ Matthew 25:14-30 / Luke 19:11-27

- The topics of judgment, reward and punishment are rather important in Jesus' utilization of parables to teach us!
- In the parable of the talents and pounds, Jesus emphasizes that while He is away, the believer must do the work of the Kingdom of God faithfully and diligently, knowing that at His return, our works will be judged and rewarded or severely punished by Jesus.
- We are encouraged to produce good works and it is our responsibility to continue productive activity, until Jesus returns.



Parable of the Talents

■ Matthew 25:14-30

- Jesus seems to parallel the “man” on a journey. Jesus Christ’s departure and ascension to heaven to be at the right hand of the His Father, as well as His return.
- The parable pictures a household of servants, which can be applied to the church in the New Testament.
- The Apostle Paul speaks about the 'household of faith' in **Galatians 6:10**. *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*
- He speaks of the 'household of God' in **Ephesians 2:19**. *So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*

Parable of the Talents

■ Matthew 25:14-30

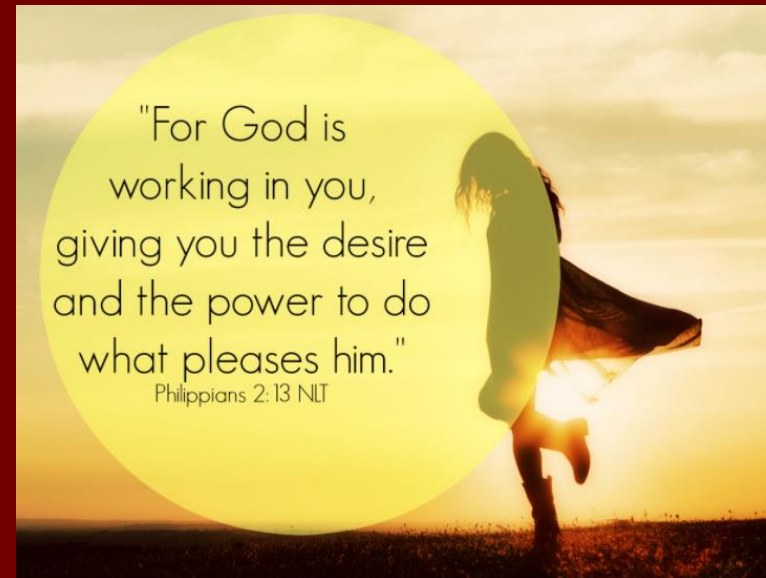
- **“Talent” – Greek “talanton” / means – Talent; in Biblical usage**
 - **“the scale of a balance, a balance, a pair of scales”**
 - **“that which is weighed”**
 - **“a weight varying in different places and times”**
 - **“a sum of money”**
- **The word 'talent' here, of course, does not mean natural ability. It refers to a sum of money. In fact, the word 'talent' began as a unit of weight, a weight of gold for example. In the OT, we can read about 'talents of gold,' 'talents of silver,' 'talents of brass,' or 'talents of iron' (1Chronicles 29:7).**
- **It has been estimated that one talent of money equaled 10-15 years of wages.**



Parable of the Talents

■ Matthew 25:14-30

- Servants did not receive the same amounts. **“Ability”** – Greek **“dynamis”** / means – **strength or power; in Biblical usage**
 - **“inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature or which a person or thing exerts and pulls forth”**
 - **“power for performing miracles”**
 - **“moral power and excellence of soul”**
 - **“power and influence which belong to riches and wealth”**
- **“It is important to say that 'ability' here should not be understood in terms of natural ability. God does not entrust one with more simply because a person is naturally more able. Actually, in the realm of spiritual reality, our natural abilities do not necessarily advance the work of God.”**



Parable of the Talents

■ Examples of “dynamis”

- **Luke 1:17** - And he shall go before him in the spirit and power **G1411** of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- **Mark 6:3-6** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joseph, and of Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work **G1411**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Parable of the Talents

■ Growing in “dynamis” = “endunamoo”

- Romans 4:18-25 (verse 20) - No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he *grew strong* ^{G1743} *in his faith* as he gave glory to God..
- Acts 9:20-24 (verse 22) - But Saul increased ^{G1743} the more in strength, ^{G1743} and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.
- Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth ^{G1743} me.
- Ephesians 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong ^{G1743} in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Parable of the Pounds

■ Luke 19:11-27

- The parable of the pounds is told because “...He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God was going to appear immediately...”
- Both parables describe a rich man going to a distant country and entrusting a sum of money to his servants to invest for him. In both, there is a promise that, when the traveler returns, he will deal with his servants according to the use they have made of that money. He promises to reward the faithful and punish the negligent. Here, it seems, the similarities end.
 - In the Talents, the servants differ from each other in the amount of money they receive, which is according to their ability / power. In the Pounds, the amount given is the same, but they differ in the diligence they display.



Parable of the Pounds

■ Luke 19:11-27

- The parable of the pounds is told because “...He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God was going to appear immediately...”
- While both parables distinguish between the faithful and the faithless, as well as the reward for diligence and the punishment for indolence, they show responsibility from different angles.
- The parable of the pounds emphasizes one aspect of spiritual life, namely that we all start out the same. In the parable, everyone starts with the same amount.



Parable of the Pounds

■ Luke 19:11-27

- The parable of the pounds is told because “...He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the Kingdom of God was going to appear immediately...”
- The parable of the pounds emphasizes one aspect of spiritual life, namely that we all start out the same. In the parable, everyone starts with the same amount.
- Example of **Acts 11:16-18** - And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”.



Parable of the Pounds

■ Luke 19:11-27

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- The parable of the pounds emphasizes one aspect of spiritual life, namely that we all start out the same. In the parable, everyone starts with the same amount.
- Example of Ephesians 4:4-6 - *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.



Parables of the Talents & Pounds

■ Matthew 25:14-30 / Luke 19:11-27

- The Parable of the Pounds has to do with the Christian life at the beginning.
- The Parable of the Talents has to do with the Christian life at a later stage, when there has been an increase of power and things have begun to change, when God is entrusting more and more to the believer.
- And the difference lies in the type of response of the believer, that which we call faith. Faith is basically a response to God. That response determines the level of increase in power, in ability.
- As time goes on, the difference becomes wider and wider. This means that in the church, we see a stratification in the level of spirituality. Some are more prominent than others.



Parables of the Talents & Pounds

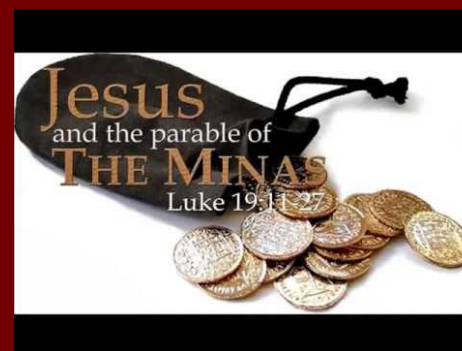
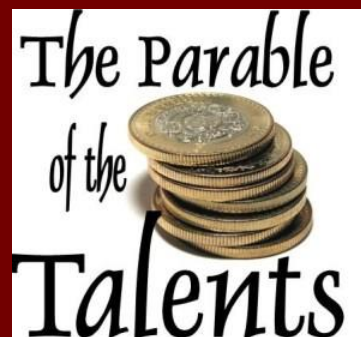
- **Matthew 25:14-30 / Luke 19:11-27**
- **II Corinthians 10:12** - For we dare not number ourselves, or compare ourselves, with some who commend themselves. For in measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, they are not wise.
- **Philippians 2:12-16** – So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.



Parables of the Talents & Pounds

■ Our Responsibility

- When God entrusts something to us, whether it is a talent, a pound, or life, it is not for us just to keep it safe.
- ✓ The teaching of Jesus in the parables of the talents and pounds reveals that we have received the gift of life from Jesus Christ. This talent or this pound must multiply. It has to produce more talents and pounds.
- ✓ Jesus emphasizes that while He is away, the believer must do the work of the Kingdom of God faithfully and diligently, knowing that at His return, our works will be judged and rewarded or severely punished by Jesus.



GROUP DISCUSSION

