

You've Got Talent!

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Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV) ¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ 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.' ²¹ "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!' ²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "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!' ²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Lessons from the Parable of Talents:

1. God gives different GIFTS to different PEOPLE.

Matt 25:14-30 (NIV) ¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

2 things to understand about gifts:

1) What we have is NOT OURS.

Psa 24:1 (NIV) ¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

2) We are given what we can HANDLE.

1 Cor 12:4-6, 11 (NIV) ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

2. He expects us to USE THEM.

Matt 25:27 (NIV) ²⁷ 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.

Col 3:23-24 (NIV) ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Quote: Our potential is God's gift to us. What we do with it is our gift to Him.

Quote: Zig Ziglar has said, "You are the only person on earth who can use your ability."

Quote: Between tomorrow's dream and yesterday's regret is today's opportunity

3. If we use them He REWARDS US.

2 faithful servants received:

AFFIRMATION: "Great job! Well done. I appreciate your good work and your faithfulness."

PROMOTION: "Since you've done so well with what I've given you, I'm going to give you even more responsibility and opportunity for growth."

CELEBRATION: "You've made me very happy. Let's celebrate together!"

4. If we don't He DISCIPLINES US.

vv 24-30

²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Rom 14:12 (NIV) ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

1 Jn 2:28 (NIV) ²⁸ And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

Different viewpoints of the servants...

5. No gift no matter how small should be UNUSED.