

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Lesson #158

Text: Matthew 25

¹⁴ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'²³ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

²⁴ "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:14-30

KINGDOM PARABLES

1. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins Matthew 25:1-13
2. The Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-30
3. The Common Link
 - a) The Return of the Lord Jesus
 - b) This is a Reality that few have been able to sustain

THE PEOPLE FEATURED IN THIS PARABLE

1. A Master (lord)
2. His servants

THE STORYLINE AS IT UNFOLDED

1. The Master gives to each servant some money
2. A talent is about 6000 denarii
3. The average pay for a daily rated worker is 1 denarii
4. It is a huge amount of money
5. Each servant is given the amount of money "according to his ability"

SERVANT #1

1. He was entrusted with 5 talents (30,000 denarii)
2. He traded with the money entrusted and was able to make 100% profit

SERVANT #2

1. He was entrusted with 2 talents (12,000 denarii)
2. He was just as successful with 100% profit

SERVANT #3

1. He was entrusted with 1 talent (6,000 denarii)

2. He hid his Master's money in the ground. He earned nothing!

ACCOUNTING FOR THE MONEY ENTRUSTED

1. All the servants were appraised

2. The first 2 servants

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Matthew 25:21, 23

- a) They were praised/ commended
- b) They were rewarded
- c) They were entrusted with more

3. The 3rd servant offered an excuse

²⁴ "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

Matthew 25:24-25

- a) His excuse was that he was afraid
- b) The talent was buried
- c) He returned the money to his master

4. Master's response to the 3rd servant

²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

Matthew 25:26-28

- a) His excuse was rejected

- b) The servant had been "wicked and lazy"
- c) He could have at least gone and deposited the money with the bankers
- d) There could have been some interest

THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:29-30

1. We need to practise accountability
2. Principle to be remembered:
 - a) To everyone who has
 - i) More will be given
 - ii) He will have abundance
 - b) To everyone who does not have
 - i) He is still held responsible
 - ii) What he has will be taken away
 - c) The unprofitable servant is cast out into outer darkness
 - d) There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth