

The Bema Seat and the Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30)

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Sept. 12th

Heb. 9:27 *"it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"* (Krisis: decision/justice)

Those who are not born again will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of Rev. 20:11-15, While every genuine believer will be evaluated at the Bema Judgment seat of Christ. (2 Cor 5:9,10) God's word contains directions for how we can prepare for this inevitable day (2 Tim. 3:16,17) as well as several parable to help us understand this process. Last week we examined the parable in 1 Cor 3:9-16, where God compares our lives to a building that will be examined.

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells the last 3 parables of his ministry. The first (vs 1-13) compares "the Kingdom of heaven" to a wedding party in which some were wise (and welcomed in the wedding) and some foolish and were rejected. All involved were invited and expected to participate, but only some of them made adequate preparation. This parable closes with the warning in Vs. 13 *"Watch...for ye know not when the Son of man cometh"* The main point of the parable is that we should be watching in expectation, while making adequate Preparation for that day! The next parable (vs 14-30) emphasizes that while we're "watching and Waiting", we should also be Working!

Principles from the Parable of the Talents. (Mt. 25:14-30)

1 Talent = 75# or 6,000 drachmas or denarii

1. Possession: Ownership. Vs 14 *"the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."* (Ps. 21:4; Rev. 4:1)

A. Each of the Servants understood this! *"Lord, thou deliveredst unto me..."* Vs 16-18; 20,22

1) Even the unfaithful servant said in vs. 25: *"I hid thy talent ... thou hast that is thine"*

2. Distribution: Stewardship. Mt 25:15

A. Each received something from their Lord.

1) It was based on their individual abilities. *"to every man according to his several ability"*

2) This implies that the Master knew his servants! (Jn. 10:27; Eph. 4:7)

1 Cor 4:1,2 *'Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, (Hypēret'ēs: under oarsmen) and stewards (Oikonomos: manager) of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.'* (Pistis: trustworthy)

3. Expectation: Partnership. Mt 25:16-18

A. Each servant understood he was to use (invest) these resources for their Lord.

Lk 19:13 *"occupy (from Pragma: busy yourself with trade) till I come"*

1) Partnership is at the heart of stewardship! (Mt 11:29; 1 Cor. 3:9; 1 Peter 4:10)

2) Two of them took this responsibility seriously. 16,17

3) One of them failed to do so. Vs 18 *"he that received one went and digged ... and hid his lord's money."*

4. Evaluation: Assessment 19-30 19 *"after a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth (synairo logos: compute and account) with them."*

A. This is a biblical, practical and universal principle! Gal. 6:7,8 *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

1) You reap what you sow!

2) You reap after you sow!

3) You reap more than (in proportion to) what you sow!

B. Notice The lord's response to his faithful servants:

- 1) **Commendation** vs 21, 22 *"Well done thou good (beneficial) and faithful (trustworthy) servant."*
 - a) The commendation was for faithfulness, not productiveness. 1 Cor 4:2
It's what we do with what we've been given that counts!
- 2) **Promotion.** 21,22 *"I will make thee ruler over many things."* See also Lk 19:16,17
- 3) **Invitation:** 21,23 *"Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*
 - a) To Greater Pleasure: *"The Joy.."* (Chara': fulness of delight)
 - b) To Greater Presence: *"of Thy Lord"* Ps 16:11 *"...in thy presence is fulness of joy..."*
 - c) To Greater **Purpose:** *"be thou ruler over many things."*

C. Notice The Lord's Reprimand to his faithless servants. 24-30

- 1) The reasons for his failure: vs 24-26
 - a) **Ignorance** produces fear! 25 *"I was afraid"*
 - (1) He didn't understand His Master's **Person.** vs 24 *"thou art a hard man"*
 - (2) He didn't understand His Master's **Purpose** (To test the servants for promotion!)
 - b) **Insolence** (haughty defiance) 24 *"thou art an hard man"*
 - (1) He judged his Lord instead of judging himself. (See 1 Cor. 11:26)
 - c) **Indolence:** (Lazy) 26 "Thou wicked and slothful servant"
- 2) The Result Of His Failure. Vs 26-28
 - a) **Conviction.** 26 *"Thou wicked and slothful servant"* (See Mt. 10:26; Ro. 2:16)
 - b) **Correction** (Cost) His choice robbed the Master of value! Vs 27
 - c) Lasting **Consequence.** 28-30
 - (1) He lost what had been entrusted to his care. 28,29
 - (2) He lost the joy of the Lord's fellowship and service. 30 (See 1 Cor. 3:15)

Conclusion:

Paul understood these truths and they motivated him! 1 Cor. 9:25-27 *"lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."* (adokimos: unapproved, disqualified)

Thankfully, that wasn't Paul's case. 1Tim. 4:7,8 *"Laid up for me a crown of righteousness..."*

But it will be the fate of some. Vs 10 *"Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world."*

The faithless servant failed to serve His Lord because he failed to get to "know" Him.

Because of this, he had everything backwards. The "assignments" were not about enriching his Lord, But enabling his servants to Prove their devotion and faithfulness and Prepare for future Promotions.

1 Jn 5:3-4 *"this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith!"*

What does such faith motivate us to do? 1 Jn 2:28,3:1 *"And now, little children, abide in him! that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."*

The "Interpretation" of this parable is that we are accountable for how we use the money God's given us. (Luke 15:10-13) *"Ye cannot serve God and mammon!"* (Money)

The "Application" is that we're accountable for how we use the resources God's given us.

2 Cor 6:1 *"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."*

What will you hear on that day?

If you're the Spiritual one of 1 Cor 2:15 & wise man of Mt. 7:24,25

"Well done good and faithful servant" Mt. 25:21

If you're the "carnal" one of 1 Cor 3:1,2 or the foolish one of Mt. 7:26

"Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46