

With Interest; Matthew 25:24-27;

I. Talent

- A. The largest unit of currency in Rome in the 1st Century
- B. Worth about 6,000 denarii (or drachma)
  - 1. A denarii (or drachma) is a day's wage
  - 2. 1 talent is 16.4 years of work
- C. Jesus gives us a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 18:23-35 (this parable illustrates forgiveness)
  - 1. A servant owes the king 10,000 talents
  - 2. The king forgives the debt
  - 3. Another owes the servant 100 denarii
  - 4. The servant does not forgive the debt
  - 5. 10,000 talents = 60,000,000 denarii = 164,383 years of labor
  - 6. 100 denarii = 100 days of labor (.27 years or 3.3 months)
- D. Is money really the issue?
  - 1. Luke 16:14; The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.
  - 2. Jesus uses what is important to the people to give them a lesson about the kingdom
  - 3. If money is important, lets use it to illustrate forgiveness
  - 4. If money is important, lets use it to illustrate service (or work) in the Kingdom

II. Property

- A. Matthew 25:14–18; 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.
- B. “Each according to his ability”
  - 1. While Jesus uses the terms property and talents, the idea behind this is clearly service in the kingdom
  - 2. Two of the three servants use their “ability” to create more talents from what they were given; the one with five makes 5 more and the one with two makes two more
  - 3. “Ability” - the Greek word is found 119 times in the New Testament
  - 4. Only translated ‘ability’ here
  - 5. Translated ‘mighty,’ ‘power,’ and ‘miracles’
  - 6. Matthew 13:53–54; 53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”
  - 7. Acts 19:11–12; 11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.
  - 8. 2 Peter 1:3; His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
  - 9. It always refers to miraculous power, 6 times it refers to Satan's power
  - 10. “His ability” in our text can really only refer to the power (gifts, talents) given to us by God to be servants in His kingdom

11. In this parable, Jesus says “a man” (God) gave his servants (us) things to do (talents) according to the power (ability) He gave us

C. We must figure out and develop these “abilities” in order to use them as God has desired us to do

### III. Enter

A. Matthew 25:19–23; 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

B. Entrance in their master’s joy is determined by two things

1. The man to whom they belong

- a) We must understand the slave master relationship
- b) The slaves are under their master’s authority
- c) The slaves must do what the master says or be punished

2. Using their ability

- a) Two used their abilities to double the amount they were given
- b) One did not use his at all, but “hid (dug in v. 18)” it “in the ground” - he buried it

C. “It (the kingdom of heaven) will be like” v. 14

1. Mark 9:1; And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”
2. The “Kingdom of Heaven” is not our eternity in heaven with God
3. The “Kingdom” is the age of the church!
4. The reward for the servants service to the master is to “enter into the joy of your master” (eternity in Heaven)
5. The punishment for the one servant’s lack of service to the master is “cast... into the outer darkness... weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (eternity away from the presence of God)

D. I see throughout Scripture God’s requirement of service in His Kingdom

E. Mark 9:33–35; 33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” 34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

### IV. With Interest

A. Matthew 25:24–27; 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.’

B. “Received what was my own”

1. I cannot see a plainer statement of expectation of service in God’s Kingdom

2. We are His own
3. Matthew 22:17–21; 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
4. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

C. With interest

1. The minimum that God desires us to do is to use our abilities He has given us to help others make the decision to follow Christ
2. Jesus did that
  - a) Feeding the 5000 (and 4000) after spending 3 days learning from Him
  - b) Healing all sorts of diseases and ailments while grieving the loss of John
  - c) Jesus used the “abilities” given to Him by the Father for both physical and spiritual healing, we can do no less

D. Worshipping God on Sunday morning is not enough!

E. We have to go out into our community and show them the love God has for us through His Son, Jesus, the Christ!

V. Servants

- A. God has given us abilities
- B. We are but property that belongs to Him
- C. We must use what God has given us to lead others to Him
- D. With interest