The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Main Thought: While we all have different talents and gifts from God, we must all put them to work for the Lord to the very best of our abilities.

The Context:
- The previous parable taught waiting (internal life) for the Lord; this one is working (external life) for the Lord. The order is significant – you must first be saved (internal) in order to work (external) for the Lord (Col. 1:29).
- Like Nehemiah, we watch and wait with one hand holding a sword while we work with the other (Neh. 4:17).
- Similar to the Parable of the Minas where all were given the same (1 mina each), here all were assigned differently (5, 2, 1 talents) according to ability.

Our Assignments (14-15):
- The man going on a journey is the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:9-11).
- He made preparation by assigning to each servant a different amount of money according to his differing abilities (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11; 1 Pet. 4:10).
- We get our word talent in English from this parable.
- God has created and prepared good works for us to do for him (Eph. 2:10).

Our Achievements (16-18):
- Like tithing (1 Cor. 16:2), it is not the portion given to us that counts, but the proportion of return on the investment that counts (14, 19).
- To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48).
- This requires energy (Col. 1:29) for the first two servants went out at once without looking back (Luke 9:62). They each doubled their trust.
- The third servant merely buried his talent and did nothing (Prov. 6:6-11).

Our Accolades (19-30):
- After a long time (2 Pet. 3:9), the master will return and settle the accounts with his servants (Rom. 3:19).
- The first two servants received identical praise – “Well done, good and faithful servant.” They would share in their master’s happiness.
- Paul fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith and was rewarded with a crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7).
- All Christians must appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10).
- Our work will be revealed by fire and if it survives we will be rewarded (1 Cor. 3:12-14; Eph. 6:7-8; Rev. 22:12).
- However, the one talent servant made excuses blaming (Gen. 3:12-13) it on the Master’s reputation of being hard and unfair which was untrue.
- This servant was wicked and lazy who made excuses (Rom. 1:20). The least this servant could have done was earn interest on the money.
- Time reveals the true nature of each servant for “by their fruit you will recognize them” (Matt. 7:16). These branches are cut off and burned (John 15:2, 6). Now his talent has been taken away and given to others.
- The worthless servant was a pretender and sent to hell (Rev. 20:15).

“God does not attempt to put a lake in a bucket.” — G. H. Lang