

Matthew 25:14–30

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 25. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today, we will talk about Matthew 25:14-30. This section of Scripture is often called the parable of the talents. The main characters in the story are an overseer and three employees. The main props are talents.

Value of a talent

Here is how *Strong’s Concordance* describes the Greek word (*talanton*).

- “Weight and monetary unit (about 57 to 80 pounds).”
- “A talent of silver was about 6,000 days’ wages (*denarii*) of a common laborer.”
- “Often implying a vast, unattainable amount.”

Given according to ability

Matthew 25:15—“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.”

Two produced a profit

Matthew 25:16-17—“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.”

To the two individuals who gained extra talents the lord said in Matthew 25:21 and 23: “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.”

One was afraid

Matthew 25:18—“But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.”

Matthew 25:24-25—“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. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ ”

Not happy with the fearful

Matthew 25:26-28—"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. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.' "

Why give it to him?

Notice a verse from a similar parable in Luke 19.

Luke 19:25—"But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas [a mina was an ancient unit of weight and equal to 1/60 talent].' "

The answer in Luke 19:26 and Matthew 25:29 doesn't satisfy everyone.

Matthew 25:29—"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."

A more-convincing answer can be found in a different parable in Matthew 20:1-16.

Matthew 20:15—"Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?"

Few reminders

Consider the following verses as you seek to fulfill our Father's expectations.

Luke 14:14—"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Galatians 6:9—"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Hebrews 6:10—"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."