

Be Faithful While You Wait:

Understanding the Parable of the Talents

Stories Jesus Told: Part 5

Discussion Questions

1. How does knowing Jesus expects active stewardship change how you view your daily routines while waiting for His return?
2. "Talents" represent your time, abilities, resources, and influence. What are 2–3 specific "talents" God has placed in your care right now?
3. Why is it encouraging that God gives responsibility based on our individual ability rather than treating everyone identically? How can we avoid comparing our gifts to others?
4. The first two servants immediately put their resources to work. What does taking a "faithful risk" for God look like in your job, family, or community?
5. Why does God measure us by *faithfulness* rather than worldly success? How does this perspective encourage you when your efforts feel unnoticed?
6. How does knowing that present faithfulness prepares us for future responsibility in God's kingdom elevate the importance of daily tasks?
7. The third servant saw the master as harsh- leading to fear and inactivity. How does knowing God's true generosity motivate you to serve Him?
8. Is there a gift, opportunity, or conversation you have buried due to fear or procrastination? What step will you take to "dig it up"?
9. How does faithful stewardship serve as evidence of genuine faith and love for Christ?
10. What is **one practical step** you can take this week to use your resources or influence to help someone follow Jesus?

Summary

In Matthew 25, Jesus concludes His teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven. While the **Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids** (vv. 1–13) taught us to **Be Ready** through a personal relationship with Christ, the **Parable of the Talents** (vv. 14–30) answers a practical question: *How should we live while we wait for His return?*

The answer: **Be Faithful While You Wait.**

Part 1: The Responsibility Entrusted by the Master (vv. 14–18)

Jesus describes a master who entrusts significant wealth to three servants before going on a journey:

"To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability."

— **Matthew 25:15**

A "talent" or bag of gold represented an enormous sum—roughly **20 years of wages** for a laborer. Notice that while each servant received a different amount based on ability, the master generously gave *everyone* an opportunity to participate in his work.

What Are the "Talents"?

The talents represent everything Christ entrusts to us while He is away:

- Our time and opportunities
- Our abilities and spiritual gifts
- Our resources, relationships, and influence

We are **stewards**, not owners. The core question isn't why someone else received more, but rather: *What are you doing with what God has entrusted to you?*

The first two servants acted **immediately**, taking faithful risks to invest their master's wealth. Whether through raising children in the Lord, initiating gospel conversations, serving in ministry, or giving generously, we are called to put our gifts to work without delay.

Part 2: The Reward from the Master (vv. 19–23)

Upon his return, the master settles accounts. The first two servants present their doubled results with joy and receive a three-fold reward:

1. **Affirmation:** *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*
2. **Greater Responsibility:** *"You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."* Faithfulness in this life prepares us for responsibility in God's eternal kingdom.
3. **Shared Joy:** *"Come and share your master's happiness!"*

Notice that the master commends **faithfulness**, not worldly success. Prominent theologian D.A. Carson has reached millions worldwide, while his father spent decades faithfully pastoring small, resistant rural churches. By the world's standards, their reach differed greatly, yet both faithfully stewarded what they received—and both receive the same reward. Nothing done in faithful service to Christ is ever wasted or unnoticed.

Part 3: The Rejection of the Master (vv. 24–30)

The third servant buried his single talent in the ground. When confronted, he blamed the master, claiming he was harsh and demanding.

The master exposed his excuse: even if he feared the master, he could have easily deposited the money in a bank to earn basic interest. His failure was not a lack of opportunity or talent, but a **lack of faithfulness and love**.

He was cast out into the outer darkness because his fruit revealed his true heart: he never truly belonged to or cared for the master. Genuine faith in Christ inevitably produces faithfulness to Christ.

Living as Faithful Stewards

Take time today to evaluate your life:

- **Identify your trust:** What responsibilities, gifts, and opportunities has God placed in your care?
- **Unearth buried potential:** If fear or apathy has led you to hide your gifts, bring it to God in confession and put them to work today.
- **Start with faith:** True service springs from belonging to Christ, not earning His favor. Trust in Him first, then serve out of gratitude.

May we remain diligent and faithful until He returns, looking forward to hearing those blessed words: "**Well done, good and faithful servant.**"