

Matthew 25:14-30 Talents and The Kingdom

Yeshua spent the final days of His earthly ministry with His disciples alone on the Mount of Olives preparing them for His death that would take place in two days. Prior to leaving the Temple Courts, His disciples had asked Him to tell them, when shall these things be? What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?

The questions they asked Him were in response to the teachings He had done and His remarks about the destruction of the Temple. After telling them about a parable of wise and foolish virgins, Yeshua uses another parable about talents as a lesson to teach His disciples about the importance of the work ahead of them in advancing the Kingdom.

The objective of the parable was to inform them that every person would have to give an account for what they did for the Kingdom with the time and resources they had.

Although His disciples did not know that their lives were about to take a drastic and dramatic turn, Yeshua knew what was just a few short days away.

Yeshua, while He was still with His disciples, continued to warn and prepare them of His expectations of them to prepare and stay ready for His return.

Mt 25:14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

The man is about to travel to a far country and will be gone a long time according to verse 19. Therefore, everything the man has is left behind in the hands of someone.

The master's goods are all that belong to the master. Questions I asked and pondered as I read the parable:

- Did the man have a wife? Not mentioned in the parable
Did the man have children? Not mentioned in the parable
- How many servants did the man have? Not mentioned in the parable
- How many talents did the man possess? Not mentioned in the parable
- Were the three servants and the eight talents the sum-total of the man's possessions? Not mentioned in the parable.

Mt 25:15 *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

A Talent – 5007 τάλαντον talanton {tal'-an-ton}

Meaning: 1) the scale of a balance, a balance, a pair of scales 2) that which is weighed, a talent 2a) a weight varying in different places and times 2b) a sum of money weighing a talent and varying in different states and according to the changes in the laws regulating currency 2b1) the Attic talent was equal to 60 Attic minae or 6000 drachmae 2b2) a talent of silver in Israel weighed about 100 pounds (45 kg) 2b3) a talent of gold in Israel weighed about 200 pounds (91 kg)

Usage: AV - talent 15; 15

Points to consider:

- Talents are money not spiritual gifts, natural or learned skills, or abilities.
- It is a parable. In this case, a story to compare the Kingdom with.
- Talents aren't the focus; it is the message conveyed by the parable.

In the teaching, Maximizing Your Talents, I dealt with the natural side of this parable. In this teaching, I will focus more on the supernatural message the parable conveys. The message is this:

- Are you a productive servant?
- Are you a profitable servant?
- What will you have produced in the Kingdom when the Master returns?

Matthew 24:1 to 25:36 was for Yeshua's 12 disciple's ears ONLY (including Judas). They are alone with Yeshua on the Mt of Olives, and He is preparing them for His return while He is yet with them. There are no multitude, passersby, religious leaders, only Yeshua and His disciples. These are the final days before His crucifixion. When Yeshua finishes these passages, the Passover is only two days away according to Matthew 26:2.

Yeshua began the parable by including the master's own servants and his goods. Yeshua narrowed in on three servants and eight talents.

Questions to ponder:

- Did the man have only three servants?
- Did the man only have eight talents?
- Did the man have other goods and servants?
- Did he have a house, land, and other things of value?

Mt 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents.

Mt 25:17 And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two.

Mt 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Money – 694 ἀργύριον argurion {ar-goo'-ree-on}

Meaning: 1) silver 2) money 3) a silver coin, silver piece, a shekel

Usage: AV - money 11, piece of silver 5, silver 3, silver piece 1; 20

Mt 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Mt 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Mt 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Mt 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Mt 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Mt 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Mt 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.

He did nothing because he was afraid. Today, there are many who are afraid to share their faith with others; afraid of making mistakes. They live their lives quietly without making waves and provoking others with the true Gospel. Although servants, they are called wicked and slothful.

Mt 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*

During Yeshua's earthly ministry He reached thousands of people with the truth. However, in His day there were untold millions who never heard of Him or the Kingdom Gospel.

Today there are billions who have not heard the true Gospel of the Kingdom. **Who are assigned to reach them? Us, Yeshua's servants**

Mt 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Mt 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents.

At the end of the parable, Yeshua transitions to everyone not just the three servants.

Mt 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Yeshua had spoken those words to His disciples back in Chapter 13.

Mt 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Mt 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Mt 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Mt 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

Mt 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Mt 13:16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Mt 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

Mt 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Unprofitable – 888 ἀχρεῖος achreios {akh-ri'-os}

Meaning: 1) useless, good for nothing

Origin: from 1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of 5534 [cf 5532];; adj

Usage: AV - unprofitable 2; 2

The unprofitable servant, who did nothing with the master's talent, would share lots with the dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and liars.

Rev 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Rev 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Rev 22:14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Rev 22:15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Rev 22:16 I Yeshua have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

Talents aren't the focus; it is the message conveyed by the parable. The message is:

- Are you producing?
- Are you profitable to the Kingdom?
- The most valuable asset you and I have is the Word of God.
- The Word is the pearl of great price.

The purpose of the parable is to cause you to question what you are doing with what you have been given?

The master had good and faithful servants and he had a wicked servant.

Think of Yeshua as the Master. The disciples are the servants.

The natural story is about the talents. The supernatural is the meaning behind the parable or the message the parable is designed to convey.

The natural world

The supernatural world

The supernatural: the message of the Kingdom, the treasures of the Kingdom, the keys of the Kingdom, thy Kingdom come.

We can get caught up in the natural world: partying, having a good time marriage, family, work, vacation seeing the world, living life, etc.

It's easy to forget, unless we stay focused that **we are not of the world.**

A living example from the Word.

Judas had a place in the Kingdom ministry, but ultimately his place and ministry was taken from him and given to another.

Ac 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Ac 1:16 Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Yeshua.

Ac 1:17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Ac 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Ac 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

Ac 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take.