



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 25:14-30

(14) For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man leaving the country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his property. (15) Now to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one; he *gave* to each one according to his own ability, and immediately left the country. (16) Then the one who had received five talents went and traded with them, and made an additional five talents. (17) In the same way also, the one who had *received* two *talents* also gained two others. (18) But the one who had received the single *talent* went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. (19) Now after a long time, the lord of those servants came to take account with them. (20) Then the one who had received five talents came to *him and* brought an additional five talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered five talents to me; see, I have gained five other talents besides them.' (21) And his lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (22) And the one who had received two talents also came to him *and* said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; see, I have gained two other talents besides them.' (23) His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (24) Then the one who had received the single talent also came to *him and* said, 'Lord, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter. (25) And *because* I was afraid, I went and hid your talent in the earth. *Now* look, you have your own.' (26) His lord answered *and* said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather what I did not scatter. (27) Because *you knew* this, you were duty-bound to take my talent to the money exchangers, *so that* when I came, I could have received my own with interest. (28) Therefore, take the talent from him, and give *it* to the one who has ten talents. (29) For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given,

and *he* shall have abundance; on the other hand, *as for* the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him. (30) And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.' There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

A Faithful Version

Following the [Parable of the Ten Virgins](#) ([Matthew 25:1-13](#)), Jesus continues without a break in His teaching to His disciples. This continuity of thought makes the [Parable of the Talents](#) (verses 14-30) a fitting complement to the preceding parable. Jesus is careful to balance His instruction by teaching another important requirement for His servants to fulfill prior to His return. He does not want His disciples to assume that the previous parable constituted His entire warning.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus reveals the necessity of developing inward character, but in the Parable of the Talents, He combines that need with the encouragement to manifest good works. The virgins teach us the need to watch and be ready; the talents teach us our responsibility to work until His return.

Jesus knew the human tendency to think that, because He was there in person, His disciples did not have to work, leading to laziness and freeloading as a person becomes dependent on the support of another. Thus, He urges His disciples, not only to be ready by watching for His return, but also to work diligently toward it. The first parable portrays the virgins [waiting](#) for their Lord, which requires mental and spiritual preparation and watching, while the Parable of the Talents shows the servants of the Lord working for Him, which entails profitable activity.

The wealthy man (referred to as "lord" by his servants) is "the Son of Man," [Jesus Christ](#) ([Matthew 25:13](#)). His journey into the far country parallels Christ's departure into heaven after His ascension. The servants stand for the twelve disciples and thus all the followers of Christ down through the ages, and the talents they receive represent the spiritual gifts Jesus passes on to His servants. The absence of the lord from his home pictures the absence of Christ's visible presence on the earth, and his return is Jesus' promised return.

The trading that the servants are expected to do during their master's absence suggests the faithful use of spiritual gifts and opportunities for service that Jesus' disciples are expected to practice. On the master's return, he commends the servants, showing what will happen at [Christ's return](#), when each Christian's service will be rewarded. The judgment on the one servant who failed in his trust is a warning against not using or misusing his gifts. [Note: The phrase, "The [kingdom of heaven](#) is" (verse 14), is in italics, meaning that it is not in the original, but was added by translators for clarity.]

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[**Parable of the Talents \(Part One\)**](#)

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