



[Matthew 25:16-18](#)

(16) Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. (17) And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. (18) But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

New King James Version

Since the servants did not know how long their master would be gone, they began trading without delay. The one with five talents increased his by 100%, as did the servant with two talents. In each case, their original assets were doubled. If the servant with one talent had just worked by trading with it, his reward would have been the same.

The motivation for service and producing good fruit should be [love](#) for the Master, a virtue the servant with one talent lacked. Sadly, he failed to trade with his talent and multiply it. Fearing his master's severity, he wrapped his lord's asset in a handkerchief and hid it in a hole in the earth. Fear is a sad thing when a person dreads losing something valuable so much that he hoards it instead of putting it to good use. So it is with a spiritual gift also.

While his fellow-servants were actively trading their talents, the third servant was idle. He was neither actively obedient nor disobedient, but passively disobedient. He did not intend to hurt his master's property; he simply failed to improve it. Similar to the foolish virgins suffering because they neglected to prepare, the third servant in this parable suffers because he did nothing with his talent. We must not hide our light under a basket ([Matthew 5:14-16](#)). Spiritual talents must be used in service to [Christ](#) for the glory of [God](#) - for the [joy](#) and honor of Him who is the Giver of every good gift ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#); [James 1:17](#)).

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Matthew 25:16-18 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Parable of the Talents \(Part Two\)](#)

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