

FAITHFUL PRODUCTIVITY – PARABLE OF TALENTS

Matt 25:14-30 ESV

14 “For it will be like a **man going on a journey**, who called his **servants** and **entrusted** to them his **property**. 15 To one he gave **five talents**, to another **two**, to another **one**, to each according to his **ability**. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and **traded with them**, and he made **five talents more**. 17 So also he who had the **two talents** made **two talents** more. 18 But he who had received the **one talent** went and dug in the ground and **hid his master's money**. 19 Now after a **long time** the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.**’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.**’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was **afraid**, and I went and **hid your talent in the ground**. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘**You wicked and slothful servant!** You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So **take the talent from him** and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to **everyone who has, will more be given**, and he will have an **abundance**. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And **cast the worthless servant** into the outer darkness. In that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’

INTERPRETING THE PARABLES (DR. ROY ZUCK, BASIC BIBLE INTERPRETATION)

- **CONTEXT THAT PROMPTED THE PARABLE**
 - 23:37-24:3
 - THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM 24:14
 - RETURN UNKNOWN 24:36, 25:13
 - 42 STAY AWAKE; 44 BE READY, 25:13
 - 45 “WHO THEN IS THE FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT...?”
 - THEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE.. 25:1
 - WHAT IS “IT”? 25:14

- **UNDERSTAND THE STORY’S NATURAL MEANING**
 - CHARACTERS?

1.

2.

3.

4.

- ACTION

WHAT DOES THE MASTER DO?

1.

2.

3.

HOW WOULD THAT STRIKE JESUS’ AUDIENCE?

HOW DOES THE MASTER APPORTION?

WHAT DO THE SERVANTS DO? WHY?

1.

2.

3.

WHAT IS THEIR REWARD? WHERE DOES THE PROFIT GO?

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WICKED, WORTHLESS SERVANT?
THE OTHERS?



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- **ASCERTAIN THE MAIN POINT OR TRUTH THE PARABLE IS TRYING TO GIVE**

(Only interpret the details of the parables if they can be validated from the passage. Many details are there for the setting of the story only.)

Three Lessons of this Parable:

1. Resources:

2. Risk:

3. Reward:

1. Do you believe that there is a present manifestation of the Kingdom of Heaven in your daily life? In your business? How so?
2. What “talent” (a great amount) has God entrusted to you that you can “put to work”?
3. How are you *ergazomai* (Gr) (from *ergon*, to work) trading/working/increasing this entrustment? Do you think Jesus wants you to grow your business? Why?
4. How do you think this increase will happen? Consider *dynamis* (Gr), the word translated “abilities”. Read Acts 1:8.
5. For *whom* are you trading/working/increasing the talents for? Who are you working for?
6. Who benefits from the earnings? Where should it go? 100% or less? What is the “joy of the master”?
7. What makes the 3rd servant hoard the talent? Why? Why is he called wicked and worthless?

GOING DEEPER LATER:

1. Do a word study of how Jesus (in Matthew) uses two words: *poieo* (to produce in Matt 3:8; see also or noun *poema* in Eph 2:10) with *dunamis* (power). Why do you think Jesus choose the latter in this passage? Is the increase because of your ability of something else’s? How does that relate to how you operate your business?
2. Read Genesis 1:27-28. Do a word study on 2 verbs commanded of mankind in the Kingdom: *radah* (He) and *kabash* (He). Wayne Grudem defines *kabash* in the Kingdom as “to make productive.” Consider this as a definition of Faithful Productivity: **“Adding value to the resources God has given for the benefit of the community.”** What would it look like if this was the purpose of your business?