



Introduction: In your sanctified _____, I want to picture a business owner of a Fortune 500 going on an extensive trip...

Well, this is exactly the picture Jesus gives in the Parable of the _____ before us. The “talents” here do not first mean natural abilities, but a weight of money.

This is a picture of our lives. Everything we have—our _____, our gifts, our _____, our opportunities—is on loan from God. And one day, we will give an account.

I. The Master hands out the _____ - 25:14-15

¹⁴ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Let me help you understand this parable:

And don’t miss what we read in verse 15, *“to each according to his own ability.”*

The word *ability* is *dynamis* (δύναμις)—meaning _____, strength, capacity.

The last line in verse 15 reads, *“and immediately he went on a journey.*

The man in this parable divided his _____ to his servants, and then He went on a long journey.

Matthew 25:13 - *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

II. The Servants _____ to the Talents – 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.

What will the three servants in the text do with the master's _____ (his own goods)? Well, I want you to underline the words, "went and _____" (25:16).

What are we doing with what the master (Jesus Christ) has placed in our _____ today? Are we being good stewards, good managers of our master's goods?

The servant who was given five talents went out...

Likewise, the servant who was given the two talents went out, and he too traded...

But what about the third servant? What does the third servant do with his master's goods? He takes what was entrusted into his care, and he goes and digs a _____ in the ground, and he hides his master's money.

Again, Dr. Haddon Robinson penned, "faithfulness isn't _____ – it's hazardously advancing the kingdom."

III. The Master holds the Servants _____ – 25:19-23

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' ²³ His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

The words, "After a long time..." go right along with the words earlier, "went on a journey." In these verses, the master of the servants has now _____ and he is going to settle accounts with his three servants.

A. The first _____ servants come before their master – 25:19-23

In these verses, we find that the first two servants come before their master to give an account of what they had done with what was entrusted into their care.

- The servant who was given the five talents came and said that he had gained an _____ five talents.
- The servant who was given two talents likewise came and said that he had gained an _____ two talents for his master.

How does the master of the servants respond to their report? Look what we have in these verses. He says to these two servants in verse 21,

- *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*
- *“You were faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things.”*
- *“Enter into the joy of your lord.”*

Don't miss what these two servants received from their master. Three things:

1. **They received** _____ – The Master's approval.
2. **They received a** _____ – Greater responsibility in the kingdom.
3. **They received** _____ – Enter into His joy.

Faithfulness in little things leads to _____ things. As Luke 16:10 says, *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”*

Faithful people experience everything that _____ to the master!

B. The _____ servant comes before his master – 25:24-30

²⁴ *“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

The third servant steps forward and begins immediately to make _____ for what was entrusted into his care. Look at what he does:

As this third servant stands before his master, he says, *“Look, there you have what is yours.”*

How does the master respond to this third servant? He said to him (25:26-27):

- "You _____ and lazy servant." (25:26).
- "You ought to have _____ my money with the bakers." (25:27).
- "And at my coming I would have received back my own with _____." (25:27).

Why do you suppose this third servant did nothing with what the master placed in his trust?

Finally, look at the master's response to this third servant:

1. **He _____ the servant's talent - 25:28**

"So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents."

2. **He had him cast into outer _____ - 25:30**

"And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The word "*unprofitable*" means

And at the website, GotQuestions.com, I read, "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Weeping represents the reaction of those expelled from God's presence who recognize their lost _____ and face their _____, while gnashing teeth expresses rage – creating a dual emotional stage combining _____ and defiant anger."

Conclusion: Dr. Adrian Rogers has said, "Eternity's _____ is coming – get your books straight."

Here are some practical steps we can take to be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ:

1. **Access your _____ and opportunities -**
2. **Act _____ -**
3. **Avoid _____ thinking -**
4. **Aim for _____ -**

Allow me to close with these words by Pastor David Guzik. He said, "The main point of this parable is clear: Our readiness for Jesus' return is determined by our stewardship of the resources that he has given us."

Folks, it's all about being _____ until Jesus returns.