

The Value of a Talent - Part 2

Matthew 25:24-25 (NASB 2020) *"Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you still have what is yours.'*

I. There is a question of Love!

Matthew 25:24-25 (NASB 2020) *...I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. And I was afraid*

What this servant overlooks is his responsibility to his master and his obligation to discharge his assigned duties. Such failure betrays his lack of love for his master, which he masks by blaming his master and excusing himself. Only the wicked servant blames his master. (Expositor's Bible Commentary: Abridged Edition (2 Volumes))

John 14:15 (NKJV) *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

John 14:15 (NASB 2020) *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

- *The NKJV uses an imperative: "keep my commandments" — it's a directive.*

"NU" stands for the Nestle-Aland and United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament text, which is commonly referred to as the "Critical Text". The Nestle-Aland (N) and United Bible Societies (U) editions are based on the oldest and most reliable manuscripts, particularly the Alexandrian or Egyptian text type, which some scholars consider to be the most accurate representation of the original Greek New Testament.

- *The NASB uses a future indicative: "you will keep my commandments" — it's predictive or descriptive.*

Both convey a connection between love and obedience, but they frame it differently—one as a command, the other as a result. Does God need to know that you love Him? God is not saying, "Ah, look, they don't love me, see, they are not keeping my commandment."

Peter, do you love me?

John 21:15- 17 (NASB 2020) *He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things: You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.*

Why is this recorded in Matthew 26? Jesus already knew Peter would deny Him! This qualifier of "if you love Me, you will obey Him" is not for God; it's for us. We all want to think that our love and fidelity to God are Strong, just like Peter did! But here is the Question! What comes about in the lives that causes us to deny Jesus? Are we willing to love Jesus at all costs?

Matthew 25:24-25 (NASB 2020) *...And I was afraid*

1 John 4:18 (NASB 2020) *There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

Love and fear are incompatible. They cannot coexist. For the Christian, love is first an experience of the Father's love for us. That "love" is so powerful and life-changing that when we know it, we are forever removed from the "fear" of God.

Therefore, when this servant said "I was afraid," all he did was expose his lack of Love for the Master!

II. Love would have Compelled Action

Matthew 25:27 (NASB 2020) *Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NKJV) *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

Matthew 25:27 (NLT) *Why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'*

What would a Bank look like to believers?

The “bank” idea suggests stewardship through participation and partnership. The servant did not even attempt to place the master’s resources where they could produce something. Therefore, in a Kingdom sense, this can point to: Connecting one’s gifts to the body of Christ (Church), investing them into ministry, serving alongside others, or placing them in environments where God can bring increase.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NASB 2020) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Romans 12:4-6 (NASB 2020) For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body’s parts do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly.

Not all giftings are the same with the same exposure

1 Corinthians 12:20-23 (NLT) Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care.

High visibility: Ephesians 4:11 (NLT) Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Medium exposure: 1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)... Ministry of Helps...

Romans 12:7-8 (NLT) If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging...

1 Peter 4:11 (NLT) ...Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Low Exposure: Romans 12:7-8 (NLT) ...If your gift is serving others, serve them well.... If it is giving, give generously...And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Prayer: 1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.

Galatians 6:2 (NASB) “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

Prayer is not merely personal communion with God; it is also a ministry believers perform for one another. Intercessory prayer reflects love, unity, humility, and participation in the life of the body of Christ.

God does not necessarily demand equal results, but He does expect faithful use of what was entrusted.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NASB 2020) So you too, since you are eager to possess spiritual gifts, strive to excel for the edification of the church.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

So in practical terms, “putting it in the bank” may look like: using your gift in a smaller capacity, supporting someone else’s ministry, serving under authority, developing the gift gradually, or simply joining a prayer team; however, it is doing something instead of nothing. The safest place to carry this out is the CHURCH!

1 Peter 4:10 (NASB 2020) As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God.