

What Believers Will Gain and Escape

Part 1 – What Believers Will Gain

Matthew 25:14-30

The parable told

*The Parable of the Talents

1. A comparison to what the kingdom of heaven w_____ be like when Jesus returns (the subject and verb is missing in verse 14 and must be supplied from verse 1)
2. The talent refers to a specific w_____ of silver
 - a. In verse 18, the word translated as m_____ is the Greek word for silver.
 - b. Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus, each piece being a coin with the weight of a s_____.
 - c. A talent equals _____ shekels.

*The Parable Told

1. The master is an i_____ and goes on a trip.
2. Before leaving, he gives each of his three slaves stewardship over some of his investments according to their a_____.
3. The master returns and asks for each slave to account for their stewardship.
 - a. Two slaves were f_____ and doubled the master's investments.
 - b. One slave was f_____ and hid the money.
4. The master r_____ the faithful slaves but punished the fearful slave.

The parable applied

*The faithful slaves represent the t_____ followers of Jesus.

*The reward

1. Does not represent eternal life which is a g_____ (Rom 6:23).
2. Represents what believers d_____ for faithful service.

*The master represents _____

1. God owns e_____ (Ps 24:1)
2. Therefore, what I have is not mine. I am a steward of it so that it is used for God's p_____.

*What has God given us stewardship over?

1. M_____ things.
 - a. Take care of the n_____ of yourself and your family first. (Matt 6:33 is the key to getting our priorities right).
 - b. Share your a_____
 - 1) Eph 4:28 – the purpose for having an income is to share with others in n_____.
 - 2) 1 Tim 6:17 – the purpose for having nice things is to be g_____ and share it with others (if you have something you are unwilling to share, then you have it for sinful reasons).
 - 3) Matt 28:18-20 – the church body must cooperate by pooling r_____ to fulfill this mission.
2. A spiritual g_____ (1 Pet 4:10,11)

- a. Peter is not talking about the spectacular gifts of 1 Cor 12 which are only given momentarily and cannot be exercised at will.
 - 1) The apostle Paul could not heal at will, otherwise he would not have left his friend behind in his s_____ (2 Tim 4:20).
 - 2) A prophet could not prophesy whenever he wanted (2 Pet 2:20 – *no prophecy was e_____ made by an act of human will*).
 - 3) A person could not speak in tongues at will (Acts 2:4 – only as the _____ gave them utterance).
 - 4) The Holy Spirit distributes these spectacular gifts as He w_____ (I Cor 12:11).
 - b. Peter is referring to gifts that we have stewardship over.
 - 1) Each believer *has received* a spiritual gift – this implies that it was given the moment of s_____ and that each still has that gift.
 - 2) Each believer must make the e_____ to use their gift to minister to other believers.
 - c. Peter divides the gifts into two categories:
 - 1) S_____ gifts having to do with *the utterances of God* (i.e. God’s word) – Rom 12 lists teaching, exhortation, and leading.
 - 2) D_____ gifts have to do with doing tasks in the *strength that God supplies*. – do them unselfishly – Rom 12 lists serving, giving, and showing mercy.
 - d. Do not worry about labeling your gift. We still must all teach, exhort, lead, serve, give, and show mercy as situations demand. However, God will lead you to f_____ on one or two of them.
3. Your t_____ - are you using them to glorify God?
 4. Your position in your f_____ (Eph 5 & 6)
 5. Your b_____ (Rom 6:12 – *present your body parts as instruments of righteousness to God*. See also 1 Cor 6:19).

The reward for faithfulness

- *C_____ - Given at Christ’s coming (1 Thess 2:19)
1. The church in Philadelphia was to be Jesus’s instrument in saving an entire synagogue of J_____ (Rev 3:7-9).
 2. Jesus warned them not to let anyone r_____ their crown (the Greek word can either mean take or receive).
 - a. Jesus is not giving a picture of Christians waiting for opportunities to _____ another person’s crown.
 - b. Jesus is giving a picture of giving a crown to someone else because the intended recipient f_____ to do what God wanted.
 3. God wants to use each of us in specific ways.
- *R_____ - All failures are burned up. All faithful deeds are shown and are rewarded accordingly (1 Cor 3:13,14; 2 Jn 8).
- *T_____ in heaven – Matt 6:20
- *The specifics of the reward are not clear
1. Some think it to be more r_____ (2Tim 2:12; Rev 5:10; 22:5).

2. The point of the parable is in verse 29 – we will not lose by serving God but will gain greatly (see 1Cor 2:9).

Conclusion:

God is taking you on an amazing mission to use you to accomplish His purposes. He sets the pace. Let Him lead you in being a faithful steward over what He has given you, such as monetary things, your spiritual gifts, your talents, your family position, and even your body. No sacrifice will compare to the reward you will receive at Christ's coming. One day your mission will be over. Then at Christ's coming, you will hear your Savior say to you, *Well done! Enter into the joy of your master!*