

Bible Story 53: JESUS TELLS A PARABLE: “THE TALENTS”

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-28

MEMORY VERSE: John 11:25

BIBLE STORY:

On Tuesday afternoon of the Passover Week, Jesus left the Temple. He went to the Mount of Olives. He told a parable about talents. *(In Jesus' day, one talent was about a thousand dollars today.)*

A man was going on a journey. Before leaving, he called his three servants to take care of his belongings while he was gone. He gave five talents to his first servant. He gave two talents to his second servant. He gave one talent to his third servant. He gave each one according to his ability of taking care of his belongings. Then he left on his journey.

The first servant left right away and worked, investing his five talents. He gained five more talents.

Also, the second servant left right away and worked, investing his two talents. He gained two more talents.

What about the third servant? He was afraid that he would lose the one talent. So he dug a hole and buried the talent in the ground.

After a long time the master came back from his journey. He called his three servants to him, wanting to know what happened to their talents.

The first servant said: ***“Master, you gave me five talents. I have gained five more. Look, here are ten talents!”*** The master was very pleased. He told him that he was a good and faithful servant with a few things. Now he would be in charge of many things.

The second servant came and said: ***“Master, you gave me two talents. I have gained two more. Look, here are four talents.”*** The master was also very pleased with this servant. He said that he was a good and faithful servant with a few things. Now he would be in charge of many things.

The third servant dug up his hidden talent and brought it to his master. He said: ***“Master, I knew you were a hard master. I was afraid something would happen to the talent. So I hid it. Look, here is the one talent!”***

The master was angry and replied, ***“You knew that I wanted you to invest this money wisely. At least you could have deposited this money in the bank. Then you could bring me the talent and the interest on it.”***

The master took his talent and gave it to the first servant. This last servant received nothing.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Jesus told the parable about talents. What is a parable?
2. How much is a talent worth today?
3. Before going on the trip, what did the man give his first servant? His second servant? His third servant?
4. What did the first servant do? What happened?
5. What did the second servant do? What happened?
6. What did the third servant do? What happened?
7. After he returned, what did the master say to his first servant? His second servant? His third servant?
8. What are some talents or abilities God has given you?
9. How can you develop and improve your talents, your abilities?
10. How can you use your talents, your abilities, in helping the Lord Jesus?