



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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What would God have to say about You?

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the Talents

God expects His followers to use their abilities and resources wisely. The master divided the talents among his servants according to their abilities; we do not have gifts of the same degree. No one received more or less than he could handle. The return God expects of us is commensurate with the gifts we have been given. The Master in the parable represents God, who entrusts His followers with various gifts—be it skills, resources, or opportunities. The expectation is not equal output but faithful effort based on what each individual has received.

The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, family connections, social positions, education, experiences, and more. God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts. And God does not expect identical or necessarily equal results from everyone's work.

Each servant is accountable for what they have been given, and the master rewards those who are actively investing and growing their talents while punishing the one who does nothing. If God truly is our Master, we must obey willingly. Our time, abilities, and money aren't ours in the first place—we are caretakers, not owners.

The two servants who doubled their talents are praised and rewarded, while the third servant, who buried his talent out of fear, was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal; he was condemned because he did nothing with what he was given. This last man was thinking only of himself. He hoped to play it safe and protect himself from his hard taskmaster, but he was judged for his self-centeredness.

He failed in his assignment; his excuse could not be that he was overwhelmed. Failure could come only from laziness. When we ignore, squander, or abuse what we are given, we are rebellious and deserve to be punished. The severe punishment of the unproductive servant serves as a warning against complacency and fear. It emphasizes that failing to use one's gifts is not an acceptable option in God's kingdom.

It is not acceptable merely to put those gifts on a closet shelf and ignore them. **We must not make excuses to avoid doing what God calls us to do.** This highlights the consequences of neglecting one's responsibilities and the importance of taking action with what one has been given.

We are encouraged to reflect on our own talents and how we are using them for God's purposes. Including considering how we can invest our time, skills, and resources to serve others and advance God's kingdom. The issue is not how much we have but how well we use what we have. Therefore, we are called for active participation in faith and service, urging us to step out of our comfort zones and take risks for the sake of the gospel.

Jesus is coming back—we know this is true. Does this mean we should quit our jobs in order to serve God? No, it means we are to use our time, talents, and treasures diligently in order to serve God completely in whatever we do. For a few people, this may mean changing professions. For most of us, it means doing our daily work out of love for God.

This parable describes the consequences of two attitudes toward Christ's return. The person who diligently prepares for it by investing his time and talents to serve God will be rewarded. The person who has no heart for the work of the Kingdom will be punished. God rewards faithfulness. Those who bear no fruit for God's Kingdom cannot expect to be treated the same as those who are faithful.

It is a privilege to be entrusted with talents, resources, and opportunities to work toward God's purposes in the world. It challenges us to be diligent stewards of our gifts, actively engaging in the work of the kingdom and preparing for the Master's return. It serves as a reminder that our actions and choices have eternal significance.