

Will You Enter? – The Parable Of The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
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Introduction

1. Immediately following the parable of the wise and foolish virgins we find Jesus telling us the parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. This parable is a continuation of Jesus' answer to His disciples question about His second coming and the end of the world.
2. The first parable we studied emphasized that we must be ready and watching for Jesus' return. In this parable the emphasis is the need to be productive until the return of Jesus...

I. The Faithful & Unfaithful Servants

- a. The Stewardship
 - i. As a wealthy man prepared to depart for a long journey, he places talents under the stewardship of three slaves or servants.
 - ii. The master then distributes the talents to each servant according to their ability to use the money productively. (Talent – is a weight of a coin)

II. Productivity & The Christian Life

- a. Being Productive Is A Risk
 - i. As Christians we are commanded to obey Jesus even when risk is involved (Revelation 2:10; Daniel 3).
 - ii. Being productive requires work! And work always bears fruit of our stewardship.
 - iii. John 15:2,5-6,8 shows we must bear fruit or we are not being productive in the kingdom. Same in James 2:14-17 which says our faith must have works to be a real faith
 - iv. Someday we will all answer for our life in the kingdom – 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - v. All of us are responsible for the gifts and stewardship entrusted to us – Romans 12:1-8

III. The Master's Return

- a. Give An Account For Stewardship
 - i. When the master returns to settle accounts with his servants, the first two had doubled the number of talents in their possession.
 - ii. The third servant, did not use his talent well. Because of his fear of his master and of risk he blames his own master for his failure.
 - iii. The master responded favorably to the first two turning them from slaves to rulers and to the wicked servant he casts out.
- b. Whoever Produces Will Be Given More
- c. Whoever Does Not Produce Anything Will Lose Everything
- d. Apart From God's Grace We Are All Unprofitable Servants
 - i. Left to ourselves we will we squander God's good gifts
 - ii. In Christ, we become new creatures and can share faithfully in the work He has given us to do.
 - iii. As our faith bears fruit in our lives, we long for the day we shall hear the Father say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."