

The Parable of the Talents

Matt. 25:14-21

- Introduction
 - The kingdom of heaven is like... (Matt. 25:14)
 - Serving God.
 - Giving to him our best.
 - Having the heart of a servant.
 - Putting our talents to work.
 - Preparing for his coming.

- A Servant Recognizes and Respects Authority
 - The kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country. (Matt. 25:14)
 - Jesus return to heaven after His death, burial and resurrection. (Acts 1:11)
 - He began reigning on His throne. (Acts 2:36; Dan. 7:13-14; Col. 3:17)
 - Requires humility (Matt. 18:3)
 - Requires selflessness (Phil. 2:3-4)

- A Servant Is A Steward
 - He delivered unto them his goods. (Matt. 25:14; I Cor. 4:1)
 - What we have is given to us by God. (I Cor. 4:7)
 - He gave to them work to do (Eph. 2:10); abilities (Rom. 12:5-13); and responsibility.
 - In proportion to his own personal ability.
 - Each one to contribute his ability and do his part in building up the body. (Eph. 4:16)

- A Good Servant Will Use What God Has Given To Him
 - "Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents..." (Matt. 25:16-18)
 - Two put their talents to work...gained additional
 - One went and buried his Lord's money.

- A Servant Anticipates The Return Of The Lord
 - "And after a long time the lord of those servants cometh..."
 - The evil servant says in his heart, "My Lord delayeth his coming." (Matt. 24:48-50)
 - Jesus will return. (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:13-18; II Thess. 1:7-9)

- A Servant Knows That A Day Of Reckoning Is Coming
 - "...and reckoneth with them." (Matt. 25:19)
 - Settles Accounts
 - "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:9-10; Eccl. 12:13-14)

- A Servant Looks To The Reward
 - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21,23)
 - "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 25:30)