

Parable of the Gold/Talents

(20-30min)

Jesus often taught using parables. What are parables? = Physical stories that help us understand spiritual truths. Someone once described a parable as a story that you star in, but don't know it until the end.

Let's analyze this one ...

The Parable of the Gold – Matthew 25

14"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.....

This is one of the most Challenging and Scariest parables in the Bible...

Background: Some older bible versions say "talents" or parable of the Talents. A talent is a unit of Gold.

In any parable, once we identify that it's a parable, we should ask who do the characters represent?

Who is the master? = Jesus

Who does the servant represent? = Us

What does the Gold represent? = Our wealth, our talents, our resources

Background: The term "talent" that we use to signify someones abilities comes from this parable.

What does this Parable teach us ?

- God gives and expects in return
- No results were demanded, but results were expected!
- What is expected of us?
- Everyone has different gifts
- Even though we have different talents we are all expected to do something with what we have.
- God does not expect the impossible.
- Not the SAME from everyone.
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Q: Is God Fair?

God is fair! He expects everyone to do something= "Each according to his ability"

But he does expect something! =To do your best! with what you've got

We are all different! To each of us God has given us different talents, Abilities, resources, money

The more you have the more God does expect from us

Luke 12:48

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked".

Why would God take away someone's gifts ?

To not try, is fatal

Failure is not the who falls = the one doesn't try!

The one who buries his talent

How might we be guilty of burying our talent ?

"Plays it safe" – huge for us, a lot of us are playing it safe, cautious Christianity ≠ Christianity

Which are we most like? 1 Talent, 3 or 5 Talent?

We are the 5 talent! Living in America, Educated, Salaries etc

Last question: How can we best use our talents?