



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The King's Perfect Prediction: His Verdict on Talents

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Matthew 25:14-30 *“For it is just like a man going abroad, called his own slaves and delivered to them his goods, 15) and to the one he gave five talents, but to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability, and he went abroad. 16) Immediately the one who received the five talents went, worked with them, and gained another five; 17) Similarly, the one who received the two, gained another two. 18) But the one who received the one went away, dug in the ground and hid his master’s (Lord’s) silver. 19) But after a long time, the Lord of those slaves comes and settles accounts with them. 20) And approaching, the one who received five talents brought another five talents saying, ‘Lord, you gave to me five talents; Behold! I gained another five talents!’ 21) His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave, over few things you were faithful, I will set you over many! Enter into the joy of your Lord!’ 22) Also approaching, the one who received two talents said, ‘Lord, you gave to me two talents; Behold! I gained another two talents!’ 23) His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave, over a few things you were faithful, I will set you over many! Enter into the joy of your Lord!’ 24) But approaching, the one who received one talent said, ‘Lord, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter; 25) And being afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground; Behold! Here you have what is yours!’ 26) But answering, his Lord said to him, ‘You wicked and slothful slave! You knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27) Then you should have necessarily brought my silver to the bankers, and at my coming I myself would have received my own with interest! 28) Therefore, take away from him the talent and give it to the one having the ten talents; 29) For to everyone having it will be given and he will have in abundance; but the one not having, even what he has shall be taken from him. 30) And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness: there will be the wailing and the gnashing of the teeth!’”*

“HE DID NOT KNOW THE CHARACTER OF HIS MASTER, SO DID NOT TRUST THE MOTIVES OF HIS MASTER, AND OUT OF FEAR OF THE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS HE THOUGHT WERE BEING MADE, HID HIS TALENT TO AVOID THE HARD WORK AND RISK OF USING IT TO CREATE MORE.” CHARLES PRICE

What is the first word of our passage pointing back to? Why did the slaves receive different amounts? What would you do if you were a slave, just given a million dollars by your master? Why did the one slave bury his master’s money? Do you consider God to be kind and gracious or demanding and wrathful? Was the wicked slave’s accusation true of God or himself? Do the faithful servants get to keep their money? Why does Jesus only present two opposite kinds of people?

FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- APRIL 27-29: MATTHEW 25:31-46 THE KING’S PERFECT PREDICTION: SHEEP AND GOATS
- MAY 4-6: MATTHEW 26:1-16 PREPARATION FOR THE DEATH OF THE KING

This is the sixth picture used to relate the important truth that Jesus was giving to His disciples regarding their inability to properly predict when Christ would return. He had told them, *“That day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone”* (Mt. 24:36). He had illustrated this truth with the sweeping of the flood, the sudden departure of the laborers, the stealth of the thief, the surprise to the wicked servant, the sound of the bridegroom for the virgins, and here in the stewards of the talents. With this truth Jesus continually warned of the coming judgment and the accountability that each person will have in their relationship with Christ.

“LET US THEREFORE LEARN TO CALL OURSELVES DAILY TO ACCOUNT, BEFORE THE LORD COME, AND MAKE A RECONING WITH US.” JOHN CALVIN

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG & 11:30 AM – WOODBRIDGE – WILL RESUME AGAIN ON MAY 4, 2011
THURSDAY @ 7:30AM – BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS PK, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA – 8TH & MAIN – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – IN TIDEWATER AREA (CALL 804-683-2285 FOR SPECIFICS)

Virginia

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I. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TALENTS MT. 25:14-18

Jesus pictures his coming kingdom with a very wealthy man preparing to leave his country for a long trip. He gives his slaves his wealth according to their capability, one five talents, another two and the last, one talent. A silver talent was the equivalent of 6000 denari or daily wages. A talent would be equivalent to the average American businessman today of about a million dollars. The five million dollar slave immediately worked his money by using it in the very best way he knew how and was able to double his money. The two million dollar slave did the same and was able to double his money as well. But the one million dollar slave went away and hid the investment of silver that his master had entrusted him. The stark contrast between the slaves was a motivation causing an increase by utmost diligence and a neglect of responsibility by idleness.

"FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD" JAMES 2:20, 26

II. THE REWARD OF TALENTS MT. 25:19-23

The diligent slaves love their master and always look forward to his return though he is gone for a very long time. Here Jesus is hinting at the already almost 2000 years of delay in his coming. But when He comes, He wants to know what was done with the immense value they were entrusted. The term "settle accounts" is a commercial phrase which can most literally be translated, "He is taking up a word with them." There seems to be an emphasis here on the infinite value of the Word of God. There is an eager excitement as the five million dollar slave voluntarily "approaching . . . brought another five talents saying, 'Lord, you gave me five talents; Behold! I gained another five talents.'" He had daily worked diligently, not only to maintain, but to increase the almost infinite value entrusted to him, and he had lived up to 100 percent of his potential! The Master is equally thrilled and rewards him in a fourfold manner.

1) **Complete Approval** – His unreserved approval was

the crowning achievement of the loyal loving slave. 2) **Character Praised** – "good" refers to character and constitution and "faithful" denotes trustworthiness and reliability (Vine's, p. 223, 273). 3) **Capitol Privileges** – "Over few things you were faithful, I will set you over many!" If He calls millions, "few," what kind of leadership position is He promising with "many?" 4) **Celestial Pleasure** – he is commanded to join in the eternal joy and pleased contentment of his loving Lord forever! Exactly the same rewards are given for the slave with a different amount entrusted, but equal effort expended.

"ANYTHING WHEREBY WE MAY GLORIFY GOD IS A 'TALENT.' OUR GIFTS, OUR INFLUENCE, OUR MONEY, OUR KNOWLEDGE, OUR HEALTH, OUR STRENGTH, OUR TIME, OUR SENSES, OUR REASON, OUR INTELLECT, OUR MEMORY, OUR AFFECTIONS, OUR PRIVILEGES AS MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH, OUR ADVANTAGES AS POSSESSORS OF THE BIBLE—ALL, ALL ARE TALENTS."

J. C. RYLE

III. THE REMOVAL OF TALENTS MT. 25:24-30

The indolent slave makes excuse by blaming and falsely accusing his master whom he obviously does not know. "Lord, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter; and being afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground; Behold! Here you have what is yours!" This lazy slave is lying! What "hard man" gives his slave a million dollars to invest any way he wishes? Was a million not enough seed money for this arrogant and ungrateful slave? Just because he got less than the others, did he really expect his Lord to accept his lies and commend his laziness in maintaining the status quo in protecting it from theft? His Lord replies that the bankers could have done the same, but with interest! By command of his Lord, his talent is taken and given to the most diligent with ten talents. But the final command proves that his Lord never knew him and eternal punishment is his end!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is your view of God and His son Jesus Christ?
- 2) Does your view of God motivate you to live up to your potential in using your talents for the increase of His kingdom?
- 3) Are you only maintaining the status quo spiritually and find God to be a harsh master?