

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Week Two Study Guide

Study Guide

1. Read Luke 19:11-27. Look at how Luke recounts this parable. What are some of the same details and what ones are different? Name three.
2. Did reading Luke's account and comparing it to Matthew's make a difference in your understanding this parable main point? Or clarify it?
3. What are the main common points in both accounts?
4. Is the man in Matthew's and the man of noble birth in Luke's account the same man?
5. How do we know that refers to Jesus? Matthew 3:17; Matthew 16:16; Luke 1:35 John 1:34
6. Matthew's account says the money was given to each servant's ability while Luke's just says to put this to work. So, what is ability referring to?
7. Who were the king's subjects who didn't want Him to be king? (We can guess this with the advantage of looking back in history.) Why?
8. The man of noble birth was going on a journey. So, what are the things used for travel that would have been easily recognized by the people Jesus was talking to?
9. The man or one of noble birth went on a long journey. Was there much traveling of people during this time that entailed long journeys?
10. Would all of Apostle Paul's journeys be by sea or were some on these Roman roads? Were they long or extended journeys?
11. The Bank in Mesopotamia is the oldest bank, and the Babylonians in Mesopotamia developed the first grain bank, which was later perfected by the ancient Egyptians. Who is a Biblical figure who used a grain bank? Exodus 41:41

12. There were professional bankers who offered financing for a speculator in grain markets called *sulpicii*. The *argentarii* were a citizen's guild of currency specialists who performed functions like lending, making payments on behalf of others, and circulating newly minted money. How does this support what Jesus said in verse 27 of this passage?

13. What Biblical proof is there of stewards or slaves being entrusted as appointed agents?
Genesis 15:2; 24:2; Genesis 39:4-8; 41-41; Daniel 6

14. Matthew 17:24-27 What was the point of the coin in the mouth of the fish? What was Jesus' response to paying the tax?

15. Does the account of this parable in Luke make the meaning clearer than in Matthew's account?

16. The first two servants went out and put the talents to work and made more. This doesn't necessarily mean money but could also mean abilities. What abilities do you have and how do you make them more or grow?

17. The third servant buried his talent. Have you buried your talent or just let it dwindle and wither?

Additional Scriptures that will be referred to are:

Deuteronomy 29:5

Daniel 5:26-28

Zachariah 9:9

Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 21:12

Matthew 24:30-31

Luke 21:25-27

Acts 1:10-11

Hebrews 9:28

Jude 14-15

Revelation 1:7-8

Revelation 3:11

Revelation 19:11

Revelation 22:20

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Week Three Study Guide

Study Guide

1. NIV says “*he gave his servants and entrusted his **wealth**.*” KJV says “*he called five servants and gave them his **goods**.*” NASB95 says “*delivered his **possessions** to his servant.*” What is the common denominator of all three versions for what was given?
2. Look at literal values first; give a literal example (example flock of sheep) that the servants could have been given that had value that could be grown or increased.
3. How could you as a servant given \$10,000 double it?
4. How could you double 5 bags of wheat seed?
5. How could you double a herd of 5 donkeys?
6. What is a definition for a figurative or innate ability?
7. When would you get an innate talent? By given by who?
8. Does it have value? To Who?
9. Give an example of an innate ability and how you could grow it
10. While reading and writing are skills, is the desire to learn to do so innate?

11. Are the abilities given each of the servants be the same?
12. How can you determine what innate abilities that you have been given?
13. How would you do the equivalent of burying an innate or natural talent/ability?
14. List three people from Scripture who had abilities they used. Example David and his sling--strategy.
15. What talents/abilities has the LORD given you?
16. Are you using them?
17. I've heard people at Grace express how some individuals were being overworked; or are they using their talents/abilities, possibly all five, that they were given?
18. Is the attitude of overwork leaning to one of burying talents? Why?

Scriptures to read (with context):

Psalms 139:13-14;

Jeremiah 1:5

Isaiah 28:16

Ephesians 2:20

Acts 4:11

Matthew 21:44

Luke 20:17-18

1 Peter 2:4-7

Matthew 25:40-45

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Week Four Study Guide

Verses 19-26 What the servants did with the talents given to them

1. What was the master's response when the servant who had been given five talents returned ten to him?
2. What does faithful mean?
3. What does the master mean by you have been faithful with a few things from a tangible perspective?
4. What does the master mean that the servant will share His Master's happiness? What does happiness mean?
5. What was the Master's response to the servant with two talents when he returned four talents to Him?

Let's look closer at the servant who buried his talent.

6. Why did he bury the talent?
7. Why did he not spend or squander the talent?
8. Why was he afraid?
9. His excuse of "*I knew You were a hard man.*" What does he mean by this?
10. What does harvesting where You have not sown mean?
11. What does gathering where You have not scattered seed mean?
12. What was the master's response?

13. What about the suggestion of at least putting it in the bank to gather interest?

14. Does the master have an expectation from each of us?

15. Will the LORD see through any excuses that we make, just as He saw through this servant's?

16. Jesus told another parable in Matthew 7:24-27 about building on the rock and not the sand. Where and how are we to build by using our talents/abilities that the LORD gave to each of us?

17. Think of one talent/ability that you have and are good at, enjoy doing it. Is it innate or learned? How can you use it to benefit God's work?

Revelation 3:14-22

Revelation 19:11

Numbers 23:19

Psalms 139:13-14

Jeremiah 1:5

Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 2:23-24

Matthew 6:20-21

Revelation 21:3-8

James 1:12

Revelation 2:10

Revelation 4:9-11

Revelation 21:12-14

Roman 1:1

Philippians 2:7

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Week Five Study Guide

1. To review, what is a talent/ability?
2. Are they innate or learned?
3. Who controls the talent/ability?
4. Name three talents/abilities
5. Is the Holy Spirit the same as He always was or has He lost any of His power?
6. 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 What gifts of the Holy spirit are listed?
7. Who control the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the person or the Holy Spirit?
8. 1Corinthians 12:7 Why are the gifts of the Holy Spirit given?
9. Romans 12:6-8 Paul lists some other gifts that are given. What are they?
10. Ephesians 4:11-12 Paul lists several different types of roles that the LORD will have His Holy Spirit give specific gifts to for effective use in His church. What are they?
11. Can you use a talent/ability if the Holy Spirit is not inside of you?
12. Can you use a gift of the Holy Spirit if He is not abiding in you?
13. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 Is any gift of the Holy Spirit more important than the others or all they all equal in importance?
14. Which of His gifts is the Holy Spirit using through you? Remember this is His gifts, not designated roles that the gifts are used in.

15. What is fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22-23

16. Is the fruit of the Spirit the same things as gifts of the Spirit?

17. How are they different?

18. Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit the same as talents/abilities?

19. The big question is:

Are the theologians who profess that the talents/abilities spoken of in the Parable of the talents are referring to gifts of the Holy Spirit correct? Is that what we've just learned?

Scripture to study:

1 Corinthians 12

Isaiah 11:2-3

Ephesians 4:11

Romans 12:6

Galatians 5:22-23

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30, Week Six Study Guide

Let's review the attitudes and motives of all three servants.

1. What was the attitude of the first two servants?
2. What is the third servant's view of the master?
3. Why did he bury the talent?
4. What is the Master's expectation for how we are to use our talents? Genesis 1:26-30; 9:1-3,7
5. Does the master/the LORD expect his servants to use their abilities to make a profit for Him—to expand His kingdom?
6. What does the master condemn this third servant for?
7. The servant does fear the LORD but is the same thing as "*fear of the LORD*"? Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10
8. How was not doing anything sin?
9. What is the warning for believers?
10. Will using our talents/abilities two-fold or more incur criticism from others?
11. What does this parable teach us about accountability to the LORD for what He has entrusted us with?
12. What does this parable teach us about wasting time?
13. What does darkness represent Scripturally?
14. What does outer darkness mean Scripturally?

15. What is the difference between darkness and outer darkness?

16. What does gnashing of teeth mean Scripturally?

This expression is used in these passages. Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 13:50; 22:13;

25:30 Luke 13:28; Psalm 112:10; Acts 7:54-58; Job 16:9; Lamentations 2:16

17. Some references described this as a place of punishment for believers. Is this what you found when you looked all the references?

18. Luke's verse 27 gives a command and consequence for those who did not want Him to be king. What was it?

19. Luke 19:27 refers to a specific group of people. Who?

20. Both versions of the parable give a proclamation about who has more. What will be given to him?

Scriptures to look up:

Proverbs 4:19

Isaiah 5:20

John 1:5-6

John 3:19

John 12:46

Ephesians 4:18

Matthew 22:13

Psalm 132:16

Isaiah 61:10

Revelation 19:7-8