



Rewards and Assignments in the Kingdom to Come January 30, 2022

Story of the Talents—Matthew 25:14–30

Let's focus on three themes or threads that run through this story...

First theme: God has entrusted talents to you, and He expects you to invest them for His profit.

In the place of talent, think about what God has given to you to invest. Your mind, your talents, your spiritual gifts, your body, your money, your will—these are all gifts.

The Lord has been very generous to you. **What are you going to do with what He gave you?**

Matthew 25:19—"After a long time, the master of the slaves came and settled accounts with them."

Second theme: The Lord will return one day and judge you on how you did with what He gave you.

The Lord is serious about what we do with what He gave us. Will we invest it for His profit or not?

The first servant invested what the Lord had entrusted to him and made a profit for his Master. The second servant invested what the Lord had entrusted to him and made a profit for his Master. But the third servant...

Matthew 25:24—"Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. So I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'"

How many people on planet earth are like that today?

The master responds in Matthew 25:26—"You wicked and lazy slave. You knew that I reap where I do not sow and gather where I did not scatter: "

Every one of us will bear appropriate responsibility for our lives.

The third servant is judged not for doing bad things, but for doing nothing.

The servant chose comfort and safety over obedience and risk. Sacrificing the rewards of investing the talents that the Lord gave him.

Assess your own life, what has the Lord given to you that you need to invest in the kingdom?

Investing all you have in the kingdom of God is the greatest opportunity you will ever know.

We want the Master to return and utter those wonderful words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master."

There's another part to this reward that might be surprising.

Matthew 25:21—"You have been trustworthy in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things."

He says, "Now it's time for you to get on with your real work. Now it's time for you to get on with the creative venture, the ultimate challenge for which you were made in the first place."

Third theme: How we live now has everything to do with what God will assign us to do in the Kingdom to come.

How we live right now, how we invest the gifts and talents that God has entrusted to us right now, has everything to do with what our next assignment will be. It will be glorious and important.

What happens to the guy who did not invest his talent?

Mathew 25:28—"Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents."

Matthew 25:29—"For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away."

Matthew 25:30—"Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

He was sent to hell for burying his talent. He buried his talent because he didn't know what the master was really like.

Matthew 7, Jesus tells of a time when some very surprised people, who think they are going to heaven, are going to be told, "Depart from me, I never knew you, you who practice lawlessness."

Their lawless deeds were evidence that they never knew the Lord. Those who don't know the Lord, don't get into heaven.

It is all about faith—without faith, it is impossible to please God. We must believe to be saved.

The truth is this: In the Kingdom to come, we will know wholeness and fullness and function in glory and splendor and be involved in some kind of cosmos-wide adventure and pursuit in partnership with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

That is why finding your ministry and fulfilling it matters! It matters right now and forever!