

FIVE TRUTHS FROM THE TALENTS

Matthew 25:14-29

Of the twenty-six parables that Jesus shared, perhaps none is so rich with truth as the *Parable of the Talents*. A “talent” was a measure of weight that represented the dollar value of a specific item based on that weight. In this parable the talent has been estimated to represent as much as twenty years of a day laborers wage.

It is easy to read this parable and think only in terms of money. You may think about people that have a lot of money and live sinfully. Media is filled with stories of exorbitantly rich people that live miserable lives. God is interested in the financial area of our life, but He wants every area of our lives to be blessed. “It is the blessing of the Lord that makes a man rich; He adds no sorrow to it” (Proverbs 10:22). I would like to have the blessing of money, but, more importantly, I would like it to come into a blessed life! These five truths show us the values that allow us to live a life that God can bless.

FIVE TRUTHS FOR GOD'S BLESSING

Truth #1: The Truth of Ownership

God owns everything (Psalms 24:1; I Corinthians 6:9, 20). Everything we have has been given to us. Our bodies were given to us by God in our mother's womb. Our spirits were given to us as a gift from God. Everything that comes into our hands in this life is a gift from God. God will never bless it until we recognize His ownership! We do not have the right to take that talent and do with it whatever we want. We must slow down and talk to the owner and get His permission before we arbitrarily make choices about His possessions.

Truth #2: The Truth of Dominion

God is a good steward, and He does not waste His resources. He will not give you more than you can rule over. Whether it's physical abilities, talents, skills, wisdom, knowledge, or money, you have to learn how to steward what God gives you and use it for your enjoyment and happiness and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. God created you for a sphere of dominion in life. We lost the original dominion in life because of Adam's sin, but Jesus came to restore the total blessing and authority of God in our lives. This makes it possible for us to again have dominion! God has an area of dominion designed for you. It is what you were created for. It is what God wants, and it is what the devil fears.

Truth #3: The Truth of Use

God will never give you something to bury. God gives us gifts to interact with this physical world that we live in and to be an asset. All your giftings can be used of the Lord; that is, unless you bury it. Why would you bury it? The number one reason is fear. Maybe you don't feel worthy or that you will fail; you won't measure up, or maybe you're not spiritual enough. The devil is the master of theater. He's constantly moving to convince you that you are going to fail.

Law 4: The Truth of Faith

Everything that God does, He does by faith. The writer of Hebrews explains to us, that, without faith, it is impossible to please Him. The master in this parable gave two of these men multiple talents. Their attitude reflected the fact that they believed he was a good master who had given them something good. They believed in taking proper diligence and wise use of the good gift of the master. If they would properly invest the good gift, then the master would bless them in return. The man who received one talent believed that the master was a bad master. He was afraid of the master. He mistrusted the master. God will never properly relate to us on the basis of fear and mistrust.

Truth #5: The Truth of Sowing and Reaping

This truth is one of the most universally acknowledged truths in existence. Religions throughout the world, along with most unbelievers, commonly endorse this truth. To them it is labeled "Karma." But this truth started in the book of Genesis. The Apostle Paul taught it to the Galatians and the Corinthians. Jesus spoke many times about it. It's a universal truth in nature, and it's a universal truth in the Spirit realm.

According to this truth, when you sow a single seed, you don't just get a single seed back. When you plant a corn seed, you get a stalk with several ears of corn with many seeds on them. Jesus told those wise servants that they had done well with the few talents He had given them, and now He was going to give them many. You reap **WHAT** you sow. You reap **MORE** than you sow. And you reap **LATER** than you sow.

LIFE LESSONS FROM SMART FARMERS

Farmers are the most practical people on earth. They must be. They must deal with what insurance companies call the Acts of God and The Laws of Nature, and there's no room for playing around.

HERE IS WHAT FARMERS UNDERSTAND

1. Don't eat all your seed.

Your future is not in your stomach, and it's not in your bank account. It is in what you sow. Every farmer knows that his future is in the ground. He must have seeds to plant to reap a crop this year.

2. Plant what you want to reap.

Can you imagine a farmer standing out in his field frustrated and angry saying, "What's all this corn doing here? It's unbelievable!" His friend walks up and says, "Harvey, what did you plant?" Harvey says, "Corn. But I didn't want corn; I wanted cotton!"

3. Plant based on how much you want to harvest.

According to Jesus (Luke 6:48), God doesn't decide how blessed you are. You decide how blessed you are. You determine the measure.