

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 20

The Parable Of The Talents (Mt. 25:14-30)

Where & When: Same as *The Parable Of The Ten Virgins* [see page 40]

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Same as *The Parable Of The Ten Virgins* [see page 40]

Questions:

- 1) Be able to connect this parable with the previous one (vv. 1-13). While we're waiting as prepared people, what does this parable encourage us to do?
- 2) Notice the characters are not "hired servants" (Mt. 20:1-16). What are they? How is that an apt description of disciples of Christ? (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- 3) How does the parable begin? (vv. 14-15) What obvious expectation did the master have of his slaves re: these talents?
- 4) What important fact is stated in v. 15 re: the amount given to each slave?
- 5) How did the first 2 slaves respond to their charge? (vv. 16-17) No matter one's level of responsibility, what does this emphasize? (Rom. 12:3b-6a; Eph. 4:11-12, 16; Mk. 14:8)
- 6) How did the 3rd slave respond? (v. 18) How would you characterize the difference between this slave and the first 2?

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- 7) What certainty is mentioned in v. 19? (Mt. 24:36-39, 42, 44; 25:6, 13)

- 8) What happened to the "5-talent" and "2-talent" slaves? (vv. 20-23) Similarities?

- 9) What happened to the "1-talent" slave? (vv. 24-30) Even if he had no trading abilities, how does the master indict the "1-talent" slave for doing nothing at all? (v. 27)

- 10) What does this parable do to the notion that doing nothing is better than doing something wrong? (Jas. 4:17) How did the master describe the "1-talent" slave? (v. 26)

- 11) How is this parable a severe warning to modern-day disciples? Consider the "1-talent" slave's words in v. 24, and compare that to 1 Jn. 5:3.

- 12) What is the parable's *main* lesson?