

Matt 25:14-30 Week 88

Servants and Wasted Opportunities

Matt. 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' NIV

Potential without _____ leads to failed potential.

John Greenleaf Whittier wrote the well-known lines, "For all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been!'"

The tragedy of _____ is the theme of Jesus' parable of the talents.

- The parable of the virgins (vv. 1-13) focuses on readiness manifested in _____ and being prepared.
- The parable of the talents focuses on readiness manifested in _____ until He returns.
- The five virgins who had oil for their lamps represent believers who possess saving _____.
- The two faithful servants who invested their talents represent believers who exhibit the _____ life.

Who is this parable aimed at? _____

What is the point of this parable? It's about _____ and _____.

It concerns two days:

1. The day of _____ (this present age), and
2. The day of _____ and _____.

Talents are the _____ bestowed by a sovereign God on all true believers.

Trusts cannot be minimized by what a person thinks he is capable of but they are given to us by God to live out a responsible _____-driven life.

What was the master's plan?

- Do as _____ as you can with the abilities God has given you, not as _____ as you can to just get along.
- By _____ he became an unprofitable servant.
- There is a day of reckoning and _____ for what we did with the gifts God has given us.

Notice four truths:

1. The _____ we receive. It is sometimes _____ and sometimes _____.
2. The _____ we have. This man represents the consistent _____ whose supreme desire is to serve God.
3. The _____ we face. The third slave demonstrated his _____ allegiance by deprecating his master's character. The third slave represents the professing Christian whose knowledge of God was _____.
4. The _____ we gain. Jesus made clear that the visible church will always include both _____ and _____ Christians.