



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14

At that time the

Kingdom of heaven

will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property.

- ♦ **Matthew 25:15**

He gave to each one according to his ability:

- ♦ **to one he gave five thousand gold coins,**
 - ♦ **to another he gave two thousand,**
 - ♦ **and to another he gave one thousand.**
- Then he left on his trip.**

- This parable is somewhat similar to the parable of the **Ten Virgins.**
- There, we are allowed to see ourselves **as we wait** for the Lord's return.
 - Here, we see ourselves **as we work** **while we wait.**

- ♦ That word “**talent**”
has a double meaning.
- ♦ Its original meaning in the Greek of the New Testament refers to
a huge sum of money.
- ♦ In the ancient world, a talent was worth what an ordinary laborer earned over
the course of fifteen years.
- ♦ Thus, giving each of his servants one or more talents, the master in this story is
entrusting them with a fortune.

- The second meaning of the word **talent** results from one interpretation of this very story.
- As the master entrusts his servants with talents, so God entrusts each of us with **abilities**.
 - Talent has thus come to mean **ability** or **skill**.
- We say that someone has a talent for **music** or **cooking** or **business**.

- But the Parable of the Talents isn't really about money or ability.
- It's about something even more important.
- What might that be?

- Before we find that answer let's talk about the one talent man.
- What do we know about him?
- What can we learn from him?
 - By getting to know him better, we can learn from his mistake.

- **First**, let's be clear:
He didn't do anything wrong.
- In fact, knowing what we know about **Jewish law in Jesus' day,** he did the most prudent thing he could do – he buried it in the ground.

- In Jesus' day,
if someone gave you money
to hold in trust,
that was your safest bet.

- Then, if it were **stolen**,
you wouldn't be held
accountable;
you wouldn't be liable.

- Or so he **thought.**

- People are still making the same mistake today.
- They assume that the prevailing worldly wisdom will get them into heaven.

- There is the “faith only” doctrine.
- There is the “Jesus, yes. The church No” doctrine.
- There is the “baptism is not essential” doctrine.
- There is the “faith only and no works” doctrine.

- **Fear** led the one talent man to reduce his risk financial risk to zero.
- And his **fear** prevented him from even trying.
- Being paralyzed by fear he reduced his profit **to zero.**

- **“Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man,**
 - **reaping where you did not sow,**
 - **and gathering where you did not scatter.**
 - **I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the earth.”**
 - **(Matthew 25:24-25)**
- The servant was afraid of his master, **and his fear led to paralysis.**
 - **What** are you afraid of?

- www.fearof.net

- Phobia List –

- The Ultimate List of Phobias and Fears

- [Fear](#) is a debilitating emotion, and it affects people of every age and stage and walk of life.

- **# 17** Alektorophobia –
The fear of chickens.
- **# 26** Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia –
The fear of long words
 - **# 37** Phobophobia –
The fear of fear.
 - **# 43** Lepidopterophobia –
The fear of butterflies
 - **# 50** Koumpounophobia –
The fear of buttons.
 - **# 63** Bananaphobia –
The fear of bananas.
 - **# 64** Sidonglobophobia –
The fear of cotton balls

- A primal fear many_ little children have is the fear of engulfment – of being swallowed up whole by some unseen force.
- Related to that, Mr. Rogers wrote a song and devoted a whole segment of one of his episodes on the fear some children have of being sucked down the bathtub drain.

- I'm not making this up.
I don't remember the tune,
but the words go like this:

- “You can
never go down,
- Can never go down,
- Can never
go down the drain.”

- Mr. Roger sang it while sitting on the side of a bathtub and showed the children how it would be physically impossible for a person's body – even a little child's body – to go down the drain.

- What are you afraid of?

- What keeps you from taking a chance?

- The word “**fear**”
is found approximately
400 times
in the KJV.
- One of life’s
greatest roadblockds
is fear.

- Are you afraid that, if you venture out of your comfort zone, you'll fall flat on your face?
- A lot of people are afraid of failure.
- **“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”**
Franklin D. Roosevelt

- Others are afraid of success.
- Success puts you in the spotlight and brings with it new demands and disciplines on your life.
- A successful man or woman has less discretionary time, less freedom, greater responsibilities and more stress.

- It has been documented that ...
 - Some homeless people don't want to succeed because they don't want to give up the freedom to come and go as they pleased.
 - They didn't want to be accountable to anyone.

- A common fear has to do with our health.
- We fear getting sick or being diagnosed with a crippling, or terminal, disease.
- At the same time, I've known people who were afraid of being well.
 - They'd nurse their illnesses and hang on to their handicapping conditions to such an extent that it became their way of life.

- **John 5:1** After this, Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival.
 - **5:2** Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool with five porches; in Hebrew it is called Bethzatha.
 - **5:3** A large crowd of sick people were lying on the porches, the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed.

- **John 5:5**

**A man was there
who had been sick for
thirty-eight years.**

- **5:6 Jesus saw him lying there,
and he knew that the man
had been sick for
such a long time;
so he asked him,**
 - **"Do you want to get well?"**

- Now, why would Jesus ask that question?
 - He said,
“Do you want to be made well?”
 - It was a legitimate question.

- The paralytic had been brought to the pool every day for thirty-eight years to lie among the other cripples.
 - What would he do,
 - Where would he go,
- What kind of support group would he have if, all of a sudden, he were to be made well?

- Let's cut to the chase.
There are lots of things –
both real and imagined –
to be afraid of.
 - The question is
what are you afraid of?
 - Naming your fears
is the first step to
overcoming them.

- And the second step is turning them over to God.
- The point is, with God on our side, we have nothing to fear.
- A better of stating this is “we have nothing to fear as long as we are on God’s side.”

- Jesus told the parents of a deathly ill child,
“Don’t be afraid, only believe.”
(Mark 5:36)
- He told his disciples out on the stormy sea,
“It is I. Don’t be afraid.”
(John 6:20)

- In the Old Testament, Moses told the children of Israel, “
 - **The LORD is the one who is going ahead of you. He will be with you. He won't abandon you or leave you. So don't be afraid or terrified.”**
(Deuteronomy 31:8)

- Today, let's introduce a **fourth** servant.
- We shall called him the **three-and-a-half talent man**.
- Where the others got **five** talents, **two** talents and **one** talent, he got **three and a half**.
- And where the first two **invested their money wisely**
- The third buried his in the **ground**,³³

- The three-and-a-half talent man made some bad investments and lost it all.
- What's going to happen to him?
 - Which are you?
 - Five talents?
 - Two talents?
 - One talent?
 - Three-and-half talent?

- This is where our fears come into play.
- I am afraid

- But the Parable of the Talents isn't really about money or ability.
- It's about something even more important.
- The Parable of the Talents is about trust.

- After a long time, the master returns and **demands an accounting.**
- Two of them have **doubled** their money.
- The third has made **nothing at all;**
- He returns to his master **exactly what he received.**

- It turns out that this servant had simply buried the money in the ground, a common security measure in ancient times.
- He reveals the reason for his action:
- He was afraid of his master.

- His trust in his master was zero, so he reduced his financial risk to zero.

- Is this where we find ourselves?

- Are we afraid of the master?

- Do we trust the master or not?

- The story as we have it leaves us with an **unanswered question.**
 - How would the master respond **if** they had not brought in a profit?
- What if they had put the money at risk **and come back empty-handed?**
 - That is where our **three-and-a-half talent man** comes in.

- The three-and-a-half talent man made some bad investments and lost it all.
- What will the master do with him?

- The gospel of John speaks of three sorts of diseased people:

Blind, halt, withered.

- Some were

less able

to help themselves

into the water than others,

- They lay longest

waiting in the porches.

- Those that were sick of these bodily diseases took the pains to come from afar.
- And had the patience to wait long for a cure; any of us would have done the same.
- What was it in this man that stood out above all the rest?

- What was the talent of this man?
 - He appears to have no outstanding talents that we recognize.
- Yet, Jesus saw something here that the human eye cannot see.
 - Jesus saw trust.
- And asked the man a question to confirm that trust.
- “Do you want to be made well?”

- Jesus is telling us that it is about **trust**.
- Do we trust the **unseen**?
- Do we trust **His word**?
- Do we trust **His promises**?

- So with that in mind **we find the answer** to what has been bothering us.
- It's **not** about my **money** alone.
- It's **not** about my **ability** alone.
 - After all, in the parable **what he commends** **is not their profits,**

- But their **faithfulness**.
- He **does not commend** the servant who produced five talents more than the one who produced two.
 - Each receives the **same commendation:**

- **“Well done, good and faithful servant.”**

- Each receives the **same invitation:**

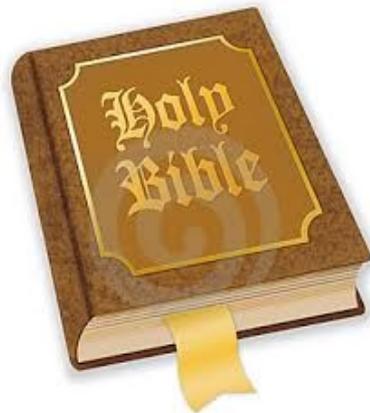
- **Enter into the joy of your lord.**

- But sadly for the man who had no trust...
 - **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:**
- **there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
(Matthew 25:30)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 02-10-2019 Tryon, NC