

Well Done; Matthew 25:20-23

I. Talents

A. In our text, Jesus is referring to a monetary amount when He says, “talent”

1. Originally, it was a measure of weight varying in size from about 26 – 36 kilograms (57 – 79 pounds)
 - a) “A talent was equivalent to 6,000 denarii. A denarius was the daily wage of soldiers and laborers. The RSV (*Revised Standard Version*) footnote says “more than fifteen years’ wages of a laborer.”¹
 - b) Five talents = 83.3 years’ wages, two talents = 33.3 years’ wages, and One talent = 16.6 years’ wages
 - c) I only bring this up because I want us to see the seriousness of this parable

II. Ability

A. Matthew 25:14–15 (ESV)¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

B. There is a connection from the previous parable

1. “This man and his going abroad are a picture of Jesus who is about to leave his disciples to enter the glory of heaven, to be gone a long while, and then at last to return”²
2. The parable of the 10 virgins and the talents talk about the bridegroom (or man) who leaves (Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension) and then returns (and we don’t know when)
3. He starts off this parable with, “For **it** will be like...” making a connection with the previous parable

C. Jesus distributes the talents based on ability

1. The man (Jesus) called His own slaves. The ones who belonged to Him and whose interests were identical to His
2. He honored these slaves with great trust by turning over all His wealth to them
3. “We are not alike even by nature. Both in the world and in the church there is endless variety. In both life is complex and calls for a variety of service and of corresponding gifts”³
4. Here is where the monetary value comes in
 - a) Our God-given talents are very important and valuable in the Kingdom
 - b) Yes, the person with one talent is valuable (16.6 years’ wages)

¹ Robert James Utley, [The First Christian Primer: Matthew](#), vol. Volume 9, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 207.

² R. C. H. Lenski, [The Interpretation of St. Matthew’s Gospel](#) (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961), 972.

³ Ibid, 974.

- c) Jesus recognizes that God has given us talents and that they are all diverse
- 5. God has given **YOU** talent(s) to use in the Kingdom!
- D. What are your talents?
 - 1. Many of us are quick to think that the talents lend themselves to Sunday morning worship, like preaching, teaching, praying, leading singing
 - 2. While those are definitely talents, they are not the only ones
 - 3. Romans 12:6–8 (ESV) ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
 - a) Prophecy is just speaking the words of God (preaching)
 - b) Service – the Greek word is ‘deacon,’ but, this is as broad as it seems
 - i. “It refers to any kind of service undertaken for God's glory in the church; and the instruction is that whatever is done should be done enthusiastically and faithfully.” ⁴
 - ii. Colossians 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
 - c) Teaching
 - d) Exhortation – “An act of emboldening another in belief or course of action, *encouragement*” ⁵
 - e) Generosity – “Of simple goodness, which gives itself without reserve, ‘without strings attached’, ‘without hidden agendas’” ⁶
 - f) Zeal – earnest commitment in discharge of an obligation or experience of a relationship, *eagerness, earnestness, diligence, willingness, zeal* often in Greco-Roman literature and inscriptions of extraordinary commitment to civic and religious responsibilities, which were frequently intertwined, and also of concern for personal moral excellence or optimum devotion to the interests of others ⁷
 - g) One who shows mercy – with gladness, wholeheartedness, and graciousness
 - 4. This is not an all-inclusive list!

⁴ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Romans 12". "Coffman's Commentaries on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/romans-12.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

⁵ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 766.

⁶ Ibid, 104.

⁷ Ibid, 939.

III. Practice, Practice, Practice

A. Use your talents!

1. There is a corresponding responsibility on the slaves' part, that they would measure up to this responsibility
2. 1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV) ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
3. God has given all of us the fruit of the Spirit
4. Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
5. 2 Peter 1:5–10 (ESV) ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
6. You should notice the overlap in some of the fruit of the Spirit and these qualities that Peter encourages us to grow, nurture, and practice

IV. Well done

A. "Well done, well done my good and faithful one"

1. If we want to hear those words, then we should be actively using our talents in the Kingdom (the very valuable talents that God has given us)
2. The only one (of the three) that did not use his talent tried to tell the man (Jesus) that he was faithful
3. Matthew 25:30 (ESV) ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
4. Being faithful is more than just showing up to worship
5. We often use that as a 'test' of faithfulness (to our own misunderstanding)
6. Being faithful is using our God-given talents to grow His Kingdom!

B. When we are serving the King, using His gifts, then we can truly say,

- #### C. "What will it be like when tears are washed away And every broken thing will finally be made whole? What will it be like when I come into Your glory Standing in the presence of a love so beautiful?"

I'm waiting my whole life for that day
I will live my life to hear You say
Well done, well done
My good and faithful one
Welcome to the place where you belong"

D. Are you 'where you belong'?