

The parable of the talents



Matthew 25: 14–30

The Lord Jesus told his disciples and others the following parable:

A man who was about to go on a journey for some time, called in his servants and entrusted his money to their care. The three servants did not all receive the same amount of money. One received five, the second two and the third servant one talent.

When the man returned after a long time, he called in his servants and asked them what they had done with the money. Two of the servants had doubled the money entrusted to them. Their master praised them. But the third servant had buried his talent. He returned it to his master accusing him of making unjust demands. The man was disappointed. He scolded his servant and discharged him.

Each one of us has received talents from the Lord.
We want to learn how to use these and do good joyfully.

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he Lord Jesus often spoke to the people in parables. He once explained to them how they should use the talents entrusted to them by the heavenly Father.

In Israel a man calls in his servants one day. He says to them: "As I am going on a long journey, I am entrusting a certain amount of money to each of you. Work with this money until I return." He gives the first servant five talents, the second two and the third one talent. Then he says to them: "You have all worked for me for some years now and I know your abilities. That is why I am not giving the same amount of money to each one of you. But you must all try very hard to work with the money entrusted to you." The man then left on his journey.

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The servant who had received five talents invested this money wisely and earned an additional five. The second servant, who had received two talents, also managed to double this amount. But the third servant, who had received

only one talent, went into a field and buried it.

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After a long time, the man returns home. He calls in his three servants and asks: "Before I went away, I entrusted some money to each one of you. Now tell me what you have done with it!" The first servant replies: "You gave me five talents. I invested it and have earned an additional five talents." The man praises him: "You are a good and faithful servant. I will entrust important tasks to you." The second servant says: "I have done the same. I, too, have doubled the money which you gave me—you gave me two talents and I now have four." The man praises this servant as much as he did the first one. The third servant says: "Sir, I know that you are a hard and strict man. I was afraid and therefore buried the talent you entrusted to me. It has not changed, here it is."

Jesus Christ is our teacher

His master replies: "You are a lazy servant. If you already know that I am a hard and strict master, why did you not try to do something with this talent?" He gives it to the servant who already has ten. To the third servant he says: "The one who increases his talents, will receive additional ones, but the one who does nothing with his talents, shall have even these taken away from him. You are a useless servant!" Disappointed, the man dismisses this servant.

*A man entrusted money to his servants.
They were to work with this money during his absence.
The hard-working ones were rewarded.*



We want to use the talents which the Lord has given us.

- 1 Each one of us has received special talents from the Lord. (One may be very kind, another may be able to sing beautifully, a third is a good listener etc.)
We make the Lord happy when we use our gifts and talents in his Church.
We look at the photographs and look for further possibilities where we can put our talents to good use.**
- 2 To explain this parable further to the children, we can compare the talents with other goods.**
- 3 We look at the picture in the Children's Book. What does this man expect from his servants?
How could this story continue?**
- 4 Why does the servant bury his talent? (fear, laziness...)**