

Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Parable of the talents continues the theme of the Lord's imminent return

It has the same theme but it emphasizes a different aspect of importance

10 Bridesmaids: readiness for the Lord. Talents: how we live now!

Talents are gifts, including opportunity Jesus gives us to serve Him now

Going away to a far country- the Lord Jesus' ascension to heaven

Time of reckoning: Jesus' return. Talents: means God gave to serve Him

I. The Master Entrusts His Affairs to His Servants: (25:14-19)

A man going on a journey: Jesus' departure. entrusted His goods to them

The master knows his servants are not identical: five talents, two and one

Two stewards are faithful, doubling their talents, one hides his talent

II. The Heart and Reward of the Faithful Servant: (25:20-23)

- 1) The master *approved*: "Well done"
- 2) The master *praised*: "Good and faithful servant"
- 3) He *granted privileges*: faithful with a few things; in charge of many
- 4) He *rewarded*: "Enter into the joy of your Lord"

III. The Heart and Reward of a Lazy Servant (25:24-30)

- 1) The master *condemns*: "He is a wicked and lazy servant"
 - 2) The master *corrects*: "deposited my money with the bankers...interest"
 - 3) He *removes his privileges*: take his talents & give to the one who has 10
 - 4) He is *punished*: cast the unprofitable servant out...weeping & sorrow
- The heart of the issue is that the third steward had a wrong view of God
 - It is the love of Christ that constrains us & compels our servanthood.