

MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM

Servants All

Matthew 25:14-30

Introduction:

- Context: presentation/rejection in Jerusalem
- Rejection leading to unjust crucifixion
- Woes/prophecy of Jerusalem's desolation
- *These things...* (Jerusalem's judgment, time markers, this generation)
- *That Day..* (the "parousia" of Jesus, end of age)
 - Unknown/unrevealed...therefore...
 - As in days of Noah
 - Suddenly taken from field and mill
 - Master of the house/faithful and wise servant
 - Parable of the 10 Virgins
 - Parable of the Talents

The Parable Set-Up - v.14-15

For it [?]
will be like a man going on a journey,
who called his servants
and entrusted to them *his* property.

To one he gave **five talents** [?],
to another **two**,
to another **one**,
to each according to his ability.

Then he went away.

The Servants' Activities - v.16-18

He who had received the **five talents** went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

So also he who had the **two talents** made two talents more.

But he who had received the **one talent** went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

The Master Returns - v.19

Now after *a long time*
the master of those servants came
and settled accounts with them.

The First Servant - v.20-21

And he who had received the five talents
came forward,
bringing five talents more, saying,
'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here
I have made five talents *more*.'
His master said to him,
'Well done, *good and faithful* servant.
You have been faithful over a *little*;
I will set you over *much*.
Enter into the joy of your master.'

The Second Servant - v.22-23

And he also who had the two talents
came forward, saying,
'Master, you delivered to me two talents;
here I have made two talents *more*.'
His master said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful over a *little*;
I will set you over *much*.
Enter into the joy of your master.'

The Third Servant - v.24

He also who had received the one talent
came forward, saying,
'Master, I knew you to be a hard man,
reaping where you did not sow,
and gathering where you scattered no seed,
so I was afraid,
and I went and hid your talent in the
ground.
Here you have what is yours.'

The Masters' Response - v.26-28

But his master answered him,
'You *wicked* and *slothful* servant!
You knew that I reap where I have not sown
and gather where I scattered no seed?
Then you ought to have
invested my money with the bankers,
and at my coming I should have received
what was my own with interest.
So take the talent from him
and give it to him who has the ten talents.

The Masters' Principle - v.29-30

For to everyone who has [...] will more be given,
and he will have an abundance.
But from the one who has not [...],
even what he has will be taken away.
And cast the worthless servant
into the outer darkness.
In that place there will be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.'

Conclusions/Applications

- Jesus reveals He will be gone for a long time...but will return.
- In His absence, Jesus gives His "talents"(gifts, skills, time, opportunity, influence, money, property, education, goods, intellect, relationships) to *all* to steward while He is gone.
- The distribution of His talents are according to His will and knowledge.
- "Risk" is involved in stewarding Christ's gifts. "Playing it safe" is rebuked by the Master.
- A day of accounting is coming and is to be pursued with both earnestness and longevity.
- This accounting is related to what we have been given, not to what we haven't.
- Our view of Jesus is a primary factor to our faithfulness.
