

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Blake Ashdown, Guest Speaker

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1. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus teaches us how to live as Christians in this fallen world, be prepared for the coming Kingdom, and become good and faithful servants.
2. A talent in the ancient world was a unit of measure worth about twenty years of wages, representing a significant gift of enormous value entrusted to the Master's servants.
3. The talent represents the sacred trust God has placed in us, which includes our spiritual blessings, time, opportunities, and personal resources.
4. Our spiritual blessings include being chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, given an inheritance, and having access to the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the grace of God.
5. Time is part of our sacred trust, and if we are not pursuing God, we will flatline in our spiritual growth.
6. Opportunities are appointed moments when God opens a door, but we must respond or we may miss the opportunity.
7. God has given us personal resources, including our abilities, personality, passions, experiences, needs, hopes, and longings. What matters to God is what we do with what we have been given.
8. Stewardship means managing well the gifts God has given us. What we have been given is not our own, and the size of the gift is not as important as what we do with it.
9. We will be held accountable for how we stewarded our sacred trust, and God measures His servants primarily by faithfulness, not by the amount entrusted to them or by comparison with others.
10. What we do with what we have been given reveals our view of God. We cannot control outcomes, but we can control the activities that lead to outcomes, so we must not bury our gift. Our responsibility is to discover it, develop it, and deploy it for His glory.

Greek & Hebrew Words

Kurios = Master - Lord or master; one who is in authority

Agathos = Good - One who accepts responsibility, is morally upright and has high standards

Pistos = Faithful - Trustworthy, dependable, and inspiring

Doulos = Servant - Slave or bondservant; one who belongs to a master

Quotes

"What you believe about God determines what you do next."

- Mark Kring

"Reward is on the other side of obedience."

- Mark Kring

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Glorious Day
Your Great Name
Only A Holy God
Goodness of God

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Blake teaches that our “sacred trust” contains our spiritual blessings, time, opportunities, and personal resources.
 - Which part do you think you steward best right now?
 - Which part needs the most attention?
2. What is one gift, ability, experience, or opportunity God has given you that you may be underusing or “burying”?
3. In his teaching, Blake said, “You can’t control outcomes. You can only control the activities that lead to outcomes.” How does that change the way you think about faithfulness and success?
4. What does being a “good and faithful servant” look like in your everyday activities?
5. How does remembering that what we have is not our own impact the way we use our time, money, abilities, and influence?
6. What is one practical step you can take this week to discover, develop, or deploy what God has entrusted to you?