



# Profitable Investment of Divine Talents

**“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21).**

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**“For unto every one that hath shall**

**be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath” (Matthew 25:29).**

Preparation for life in the kingdom of heaven involves the profitable investment of our God-given talents while here on earth. This can be likened to paying into a pension scheme for a future retirement - the amount contributed determines the pay-out and consequently the quality of life in retirement. Jesus taught on this with two parables recorded in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27; from which we learn the following:

- 1) Every talent the servants had was given by the master, a succinct reminder that all our skills, qualifications and special abilities are gifts from God, and are given in trust for investment on earth.
- 2) Every servant was given talent. No body was left out, another succinct reminder that nobody is a spectator in God's kingdom. Luke's account talk of everyone receiving one talent each whereas in Matthew's account they were given according to their abilities but everyone had talent to invest. Just like in the natural, in God's kingdom gifts may be bestowed based on our abilities to effectively utilise them.
- 3) The master left them to work unsupervised. Therefore, the servants became their masters of their own destiny.
- 4) Although the servants could live off the profits from their investments, but ultimately the purpose of getting the talents was not for personal pleasure, but for investment into the master's kingdom. Similarly, although we can make a living from our skills, qualification and abilities, yet ultimately these are for investment in divine service for the growth of God's kingdom.
- 5) Starting with the same opportunities, some can make 1000% profits and others 0% based on their willingness to take risks, wise application of skills in exploiting opportunities and persistence in hard work on profitable

ventures without supervision (i.e. they are self-motivated, responsible and proactive).

- 6) Those unwilling to invest were very busy looking for and inventing endless excuses as well as manifold reasons for not investing as well as who to blame for their laziness and lack of initiative.
- 7) On his return, the master called every servant to give account on their use of their talents. A day of reckoning is coming where everyone will stand before God to give account of how they spent their lives on earth and what profit they made of their God-given talents and skills.
- 8) The servants that made profits in their investments were promoted to greater responsibilities - based on the level of profit they made. Promotion comes as we master our current levels and make the best use of existing opportunities, not just on the skills we have.
- 9) The servants who buried their talents, were unwilling to take risks or make flexible adjustments to their lives in order to invest were judged for their laziness, excuses and lack of insight. Their talents were taken from them and added to the ones of those who are willing to invest. What a warning - that unwillingness to use our God given talents could lead to the loss of those talents and associated opportunities.
- 10) The citizens who did not want the master to reign over them were judged and destroyed. Jesus will reign over the earth irrespective of the opposers. It is only safe to be in Jesus' camp and prepare for Him.