



# Invest Your God-Given 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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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:

**“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).**

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

- 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 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 profit, 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 and who to blame for their laziness / lack of initiative.
- 7) On his return, the master called every servant to give account on the 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 were 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.

## Texts:

Mt:25:14-30: For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15: And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16: Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17: And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18: But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19: After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20: And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21: 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. 22: He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23: His lord said unto him, Well done, 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. 24: Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26: His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28: Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29: 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. 30: And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Lu:19:11-27: And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12: He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13: And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14: But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15: And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16: Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17: And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18: And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19: And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20: And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22: And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24: And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25: (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26: For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27: But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.