

THE TALENTS A Bible study on Matthew 25:14-30

Whose goods were the talents? Verse 14

Notice that the distribution was not equal. One got 5X as much as the other.

All had SOMETHING.

There were basically two reactions to using the talents. What were they?

1. Trade and make more
2. Hide it without using it.

Where was the Master? For how long?

Note that a certain amount of initiative and personal decision making was exercised.

What was the result of using the talents?

1. Multiplication of what they had
2. Master's commendation
3. Increase in responsibility

What was the result of not using the talent?

1. Loss of what he had
2. Master's angry --called him a wicked, lazy servant

What excuses did the lazy servant offer?

How did the Master respond to his excuses?

What principles can we draw from this story that can help us in Christian service?

In the end, after the talents increased, to whom did they belong?

How is success defined or presented in this parable?

In what other ways do people define success? Personally and organizationally?

If we define success as pleasing the Master, according to this parable, where does success lie?

Conclusions & Applications

Personal

God isn't impressed with excuses. Confession & repentance is a better response when faults & failures are recognized or pointed out.

Consider—what resources and talents has God given me?

Organizational

- There is no need to compare ourselves with other groups, either larger or smaller.
- God wants us to use the resources He has given us. He has given them to us for a purpose, and the mere fact that He has given them to us carries with it a responsibility to use them wisely and well.
- The way to increase our resources is to faithfully use what we have right now.
- What resources has God given ECM? How can we use them better?

Galatians 6:9