

MATTHEW 25 vs 14

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Matthew was an eyewitness to Jesus, and he recalled Jesus, no longer confronting and engaging the religious leaders; Jesus, who left the desolate temple for the last time... He went out to the Mount of Olives where His disciples came to Him privately... and He spoke to them of future and end time events, including His official coming again.

He spoke a parable about: those positioned in the Church He is building. He spoke a parable about faithful devotion to a Bridegroom who was coming; in essence, about: the first of all loves... our love for God. And now Matthew records **this final parable** about: faithful servants, caretakers... busy working; occupying, with an occupation, doing something purposeful... until He comes.



14 For it is like a man travelling into a far country, he called his own servants, and delivered to them his goods / everything they needed while he was gone he delivered to them.

15 And to one he gave five talents / the Greek word is: **talanton**; so, we hear where we get the English word: **talent**. But the word is much more than that; it means a great sum of money. A single roman talent was 6,000 pieces of gold. So, do the math! That's a lot of talent. A lot... for any economy... even today,



And to one he gave five talents / 30,000 pieces of gold,

to another two / that's 12,000 pieces of gold,

and to another one / and that's 6,000 pieces of gold. I'll take it! Even the one talent!

to every man according to his different ability; and straightway / immediately this guy... took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same / Matthew Henry says: those who have lots of work to do, they set about it quickly and lose no time,

and made of them another five talents / 30,000 more pieces of gold. That wouldn't fit in his wallet. You know, I bet he needed one of those rental camels to haul it all ... or maybe, a she-ass or two.

17 Likewise he who had received two,

gained another two / so now, that guy has a total of 24,000 pieces of gold. Honestly, I don't know if he could actually use a good camel... but I'd imagine with that much gold... he needs at least... a standard working ass; what do you think? 10 – 12 hands?

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18 But he who had received one... went and dug the earth / hmm?!

and hid his lord's money.

Now...

19 After a long time / and it has been 2,000 years; so, He wasn't kidding... it's been a long time.

After a long time, the lord of those servants comes / he arrives,

and reckons with them / he is wanting his servants to give account of their improvements.

20 And so he who had received five talents came

and brought another five talents / with him,

saying / I'm sure... somewhat amazed...

saying, Lord, you delivered to me five talents / so this worker is giving credit to where credit is due; without his Master, he could do nothing. And he says enthusiastically:

behold, I have gained five talents more / and we might wonder: what did he do? We don't know; but whatever it was, he did something.

21 His lord said to him / probably with a big grin, and a little laughter in his voice, too,

WOW! Well done! / Good job! good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things / virtually over next to nothing, really, now days, we'd say... over the small stuff,

I will position you over many things / over the big stuff! And this man having returned from this far country, added:

enter into the joy of your lord / now, that doesn't sound like a bad thing, does it? Apparently, this guy is pretty generous... disproportionately generous.

22 He also who received two talents came and said,

You delivered to me two talents:

behold, / check it out

I have gained two other talents.

23 His lord said to him, Well done / Good job! good and faithful servant

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/ good toward others; and faithful to his lord... just like the first servant. You know God likes faithfulness. Many times we read, God is faithful; and all the apostles added, you be faithful, too.

We don't know what these two servants did; but we do know... they were **good... and faithful**. We know, many are called: the call has gone out to many... fewer are chosen, and in Revelation 17 we learn why. Those coming again one day... with the King of kings... are: the called and chosen... because they were... faithful. But let's not interrupt this Lord. He says;

you have been faithful over / the small stuff,

I will position you over many things: enter into the joy of your lord.

24 Then he who received the one talent came and said,

Lord, I knew you / I know your type...Oh really?! **that you are a hard man** / you are a pretty stern and austere guy. Oh?! So, this is the excuse-maker,

And he continues...

reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered / so, this stupid guy's defensive strategy by all appearance, is to be offensive; he blames the Boss for his failure:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth / this insulting fellow hid the talent where things rust and rot and ruin. So, he accused his Boss of being heartless and he was afraid; and since the work opportunity was joyless he buried the talent. And pulling the talent from his pocket he said:

lo, you can have what is yours / it seems, this one imagined he could give back what he had wasted... and allowed to decay.

And was there a lengthy pause?

26 His lord answered / sizing up the situation; how best to answer this individual; having thought for a moment, **and said to him, You wicked and slothful servant** / you despicable, lazy-ass of a servant,

IF... you knew that I reap where I do not sow, and gather where I have not scattered, what I did not winnow myself...

IF... you think I've been raking in what belongs to others, and where others have toiled:

THEN...

27 you should have put my money with the exchangers / you should have invested the money with the bankers or investment brokers,

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and at my coming I should have received my own with interest / Matthew Henry says, This reply of the Lord can be taken, one of three ways:

- Suppose I had been so hard a Master, then be more diligent and careful to please... if not out of love, then, out of fear;
- If you did think me a hard Master, and I could not have the greater improvements produced by trade... then at least allow me the lesser improvements created by interest;
- Or if you supposed I reap where I do not sow... what is that to you? For I have sowed upon you, and the talent was my money which I had entrusted you with... not only to keep, but to improve.

And this Boss says...

28 Therefore take the talent from him / and notice the silence of this afraid servant. There is no slap on the forehead... that a light came on; there is no asking forgiveness... having failed the Boss.

the Boss says...**take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents** / there are many people through the centuries who have been given many talents... even today; and they have buried it, or worse... embezzled those gifts for their own purposes. According to this parable, everybody has been given at least one talent.

29 For to everyone who has is more given, and he will have abundance:

but from him who does not have, even that which he has will be taken away / and this servant, hearing these successive steps of discipline... still asks NO forgiveness. Many times, Jesus said, If we have ears to hear... and eyes to see... use them!

And if our eyes... and ears... and hands... and other talents have been given for use in God's kingdom... especially for those who are hungry and thirsty and strangers and in great need... and we close our eyes... to not see the need of others... and our hands are not stretched forth to heal and help our neighbor... why would we need those eyes or hands?

The Boss says...

30 Cast that unprofitable *lazy* servant into outer darkness: there / in the darkness,

will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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Man or Rabbit? -- CSLewisDoodle