



Wealth management

1. Over 1/3 of the recorded words of Jesus are parables.
2. Jesus said parables were used to conceal and reveal. (Matt 13)
3. Whether parables reveal or conceal truth depends on the condition of your heart.
4. A parable focuses on a single big idea. It is not a merely a historical narrative nor an allegory.

Good Samaritan: A neighbor takes action to help someone in need.

The unforgiving servant: An unforgiving spirit makes a mockery of God's grace.

The tax collector and the publican: Pride and hypocrisy destroys relationship.

The sower the seed, and the soil: You must be receptive to the seed God is planting in your life

5. There are two keys to understanding parables: a **willingness to learn** and **spiritual discernment**.
6. Matthew 25 contains three parables about the importance of alertness, preparation, faithfulness, and obedience in view of the return of the Lord.

1. The servants were given resources to manage according to their ability

Matthew 25:14-18 (ESV) ¹⁴ *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.*

1. The master was going on a **long** journey and entrusted his wealth among 3 of his servants to manage in his absence.
2. He gave **5** talents to one, **2** talents to another, and 1 talent to the last.

3. A talent was a measurement of weight—about **75** pounds.
4. A **talent** of silver represented **20 years of wages** for a common laborer. One talent was approximately \$400,000 in today's economy.
5. The one who received **\$2,000,000** (5 talents) **went at once** and **began working** and **over time**, he **doubled** the amount.
6. The one who received **\$800,000** (2 talents) did the **same**.
7. The one who received **\$400,000** was fearful and **buried his money**.

2. The servants report on their efforts

25:19-27 (ESV) ¹⁹ *Now after a **long time** the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.* ²⁰ *And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; **here** I have made five talents more.'* ²¹ *His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'* ²² *And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me*

two talents; here I have made two talents more.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

1. The first two servants were equally **thrilled** to see their master return and **enthusiastically** report on their results.
KJV—BEHOLD other versions –see
2. The master **congratulations** them and offers them joy.
3. The **same words** of accommodation are **given to both**.

4. The servant who had received one talent **quickly** made **accusations** and **excuses**.

His motto would have been, ***“at least I didn’t lose it!”***

5. He **condemns** himself with his own words. He had a **long time**-----and did nothing!!!!

Do you want to hear the master say, **“well done good and faithful servant”** or **“you wicked and lazy servant?”**

3. Jesus explains the meaning of the parable

Matthew 25:28-30 (ESV) ²⁸ *So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.* ²⁹ *For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.* ³⁰ *And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

1. The reward of successful management is the **opportunity** to do more.

2. We do have **different opportunities** but **equal responsibility**.

3. If you fail to comprehend the generous, gracious, and compassionate nature of God ministry becomes unbearable.

4. We are not saved by good works BUT we are saved to good works.

Matthew 5:16 (ESV) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

May we all hear the Master say one day,
Well done, **GOOD** and **FAITHFUL** servant!!!