

“WORKING FOR CHRIST’S RETURN”

MATTHEW 25:14 – 30 (THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS)

SERIES: JESUS KINGDOM PARABLES ~ STORIES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

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Introduction

Matthew 25 is part of the Olivet Discourse, Jesus last public ministry on the Mount of Olives, where he taught about the ‘end times’. (Matthew 24 & 25) There has been a heightened interest in the ‘end times’ recently, which is not surprising considering the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic. There are number of prophesies doing the rounds, and we need to note 3 cautions, which give us some perspective:

- **H.....** provides us with numerous examples of people responding in fear to their circumstances. For example:
 - In the 1980s there was the Middle East oil crisis and a variety of prophetic books were written, many of which have now been debunked.
 - During WW1 & WW2, some Christians wandered if it was the ‘end times’.
 - During the 16th & 17th centuries.
- **Differing d..... perspectives** regarding the regarding the Tribulation (time of chaos and suffering), with particular reference to Christ’s coming again for the saints – before, during or after the Tribulation. This can create confusion.
- **C.....** and so called ‘prophets’ who profit from people’s fears or preach a gospel of health, wealth and prosperity, and post their wares on YouTube, getting paid for attracting ‘hits’ for advertising.

As Christians we need to ‘keep our feet on the ground’ and not be misled or discouraged.

At the same time we need to remember that Christ’s coming is sooner than ever before, and take heed and be ready!

In Matthew 24 Jesus speaks about the ‘end times’ and the Lords coming.

Matthew 25 is application of the previous chapter, and Jesus tells 3 parables:
V1-13 Parable of the Ten Virgins: W..... for Christ's return: be ready.
V 14-30 Parable of the Talents: W..... for Christ's return: be diligent.
V 31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats: be W..... of Christ's return.
– be right with God!

Reading: Matthew 24:14-30

D. Campbell Morgan

Jesus told the Parable of the Talents

The man would be away a long time: for us Christ's coming seems a long time.

A talent was measure or weight; a talenton was a measure of money of much value, some estimate 3000 days wages.

Jesus is NOT referring to our natural abilities, gifts or spiritual gifts when he speaks about a 'talent'. We know this because the talent was given 'according to ability' and later talents are given and taken away.

The Greek word for servant is 'slave' and refers here to someone belongs to and loves his master.

- Five Talent Francois:
- Two Talent Tom:
- One Talent William:

God had given a calling to serve in His Kingdom.

Tragically, One Talent William squandered his God-given calling, opportunity and responsibility.

How are we to understand this parable today?

An equation:

Ability / giftedness / skill + R..... & opportunity (calling) =

What are you doing with the anointing God has placed on your life?

1. The O..... of the anointing

(I) It's on L..... from the Master (v14)

The anointing does not belong to you but is ENTRUSTED to you. It is a holy calling from the Lord, to every Christian.

(II) There are L..... on the anointing (v15, 20-23)

If you think you are only a One Talent William consider the rewards are all the same for faithfulness!

(III) There are L..... of anointing (v16,17)

Implicit here is that the Lord can increase the anointing.

Isaiah 61:17

(IV) There can be a L..... of anointing (v18, 28-29)

2 Timothy 1:7

2. The O..... of the anointing

(I) They served with a sense of (v16,19)

(II) **They served with a desire to be** (v16)

(III) **They served while being mindful of the** (v24b)

Philemon 6

2 Peter 1:6,8

(IV) **They served with a** **for the Master** (v23)

3. The O..... of the anointing

1 Thessalonians 5:19 "Do not quench the Spirit"

A terrible pronouncement: *"You wicked, lazy servant"*(v26)

He had WILLFULLY and DELIBERATELY refused to do any work in the Kingdom.

Why was this? Was it pride? Did he despise his anointing? Did he covet a greater calling? 3 John 9 - Diotrefes loved to be first.

"God fits the man to his place, and gives a place to a man"

Luke 12:48 *"For everything to whom much is given, much will be demanded."*

"The right man, for the right task, at the right time."

"You cannot put small feet in big shoes, but when the shoe fits it's glorious!"

William Borden

"Lord Jesus, I take my hands off, as far as my life is concerned. Change, cleanse, use me as you will. I take the full power of your Holy Spirit."