

The Parable of the Talents

Matt. 25:14-30

Introduction:

- A. Jesus anticipates four things concerning the kingdom of heaven.
 - 1. His return to heaven (v. 14a cf. John 14:1-6).
 - 2. His work placed into servants' hands (v. 14b) – now works through Christians in world.
 - 3. His assignment of proportional responsibilities (v. 15).
 - 4. His return from heaven (v. 19)
- B. Jesus describes two *imperatives* for the three servants in the parable.

Discussion:

I. Their Responsibility to Their Lord While He Is Gone (v. 15)

- A. No one escapes responsibility – “every man” (v. 15).
- B. No one given unfair responsibility – “according to ... ability”
 - 1. Lord recognizes different *natural* abilities (Acts 18:24 w/ 2 Cor. 11:6).
 - 2. Lord recognizes different *material* abilities (Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:12).
 - 3. Lord recognizes different opportunities (Phil. 4:10; Gal. 6:10)
 - a. May blind selves to opportunities.
 - b. Cf. Shoe Salesman.
- C. No one should be unhappy with his particular responsibility (cf. 1 Cor. 12:14-19).
 - 1. Some unhappy because have more responsibility than they want (cf. Heb. 5:12).
 - 2. Some unhappy because want more responsibility than they have (cf. Jas. 3:1)
 - a. Need to accept limitations as well as responsibilities.
 - b. Need to respect limitations imposed by ability and scriptures.
- D. No one is excused from doing what *he* or *she* can do.
 - 1. No comfort in comparison to others – 3 not enough for 5 talent man, but 2 was for 2.
 - 2. No benefit in a purely negative religion.
 - a. 1 talent man did not lose his talent by waste in riotous living, gambling, etc.
 - b. 1 talent man did not hinder the other two men.
 - 3. No excuse to use caution to cover laziness (vv. 24-26; cf. Prov. 26:13).

II. Their Judgement by Their Lord When He Returns (v. 19)

- A. The two faithful servants received identical rewards (v. 20-23).
 - 1. Each received more than he could earn (v. 23 - “few” vs. “many”)
 - 2. Each received entrance into the “joy of thy lord” (cf. Rev. 21:4).
- B. The “do-nothing” servant went into outer darkness (v. 30).
 - 1. He lost everything (vv. 28-29).
 - 2. Cannot be content to just “hold our own.”

Conclusion:

- A. Have you fulfilled your responsibility to the first principles of the gospel?
- B. Are you fulfilling your responsibility as Christian daily?