

# The Unprofitableness of the One Talent Man

Matthew 25:30

## Introduction:

- A. Jesus' earthly ministry prepared followers for the imminent kingdom. (Cf. Matt. 4:17; Mark 9:1)
  - 1. "The kingdom of heaven is like" in eleven parables in Matthew.
  - 2. The parable of the talents one of 3 judgment parables in Matthew 25. (Tell story)
- B. Jesus anticipated four things about the kingdom in the parable of the talents.
  - 1. His ascension into heaven (v. 14a; cf. John 14:1-6; Eph 1:19-23).
  - 2. His work given to his servants (v. 14b)
  - 3. His fairness in dealing with his servants (v. 15) — All commands assume capability.
    - a. Infants, little children, mentally incompetent not responsible for first principles.
    - b. "Confess with mouth" only applies if one has power of speech (cf. Chappalear's foolishness).
  - 4. His return to settle accounts (v. 19).
- C. Jesus called the one-talent servant "unprofitable" (v. 30).
  - 1. He was unprofitable to: God, fellow-servants, and self.
  - 2. His unprofitableness is seen in four other suitable descriptions:

## Discussion:

### I. He Said He Was *Afraid* (Verse 25).

- A. Not all fear is bad. (Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Matt. 10:28; Heb. 5:7).
- B. Fear is no excuse for shirking duty. (1 Cor. 2:3; Phil. 2:12)
  - 1. Fear should beget caution, but not cowardice. (Cf. Rev. 21:8).
  - 2. Afraid to preach, but more afraid not to.
- C. Professed fear often covers for laziness. (Vv. 24-26; cf. Prov. 26:13).

### II. He Is Said to Have Been *Lazy* (Verse 26).

- A. The Lord's judgment, not man's.
  - 1. Men sometimes judge others lazy because they fit *their idea* of work.
  - 2. God knows both the hearts and the activities of a man.
- B. The Lord condemns laziness — Physical and spiritual.
  - 1. Physical laziness (2 Thess. 3:10-12).
  - 2. Spiritual laziness (Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:12).
  - 3. Possible to be physically diligent and spiritually lazy.
- C. The Lazy servant did something — "went and hid".
  - 1. Likely thought he had done enough: "Look, you have what is yours."
  - 2. Just enough to keep from losing what he had — no more.
- D. The Lazy person often knows just how everything should be done (cf. Prov. 26:16).

### III. He Is Said to Be *Wicked* (Verse 26).

- A. From *poneros* (pon-ay-ros) = "evil (properly, in effect or influence, and thus differing from [kakos], which refers rather to essential character." — Strong.
- B. The Lazy servant more guilty of wicked neglect than wicked deeds.
  - 1. Not charged with many sins of that "wicked and adulterous" generation.
  - 2. Not same as prodigal son — wasteful and squandering.

### IV. He Is Portrayed as Being *Lost* (Verse 30).

- A. The darkness of hell.
- B. The sounds of hell. (cf. Matt 13:50)
- C. The fire of hell. (V. 41)

## Conclusion:

- A. Is it possible that we have become lazy in our areas of responsibilities?
  - 1. To carry the gospel to the lost?
  - 2. To care for those who need care?
  - 3. To edify ourselves and the church?
- B. Is it possible that we need to repent of being wicked and lazy to avoid being lost?

