

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE PARABLES OF THE WORKERS AND OF THE TALENTS

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” (Matthew 25:23)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	For by grace, we are saved through faith, and that not of ourselves. God can punish us if we do not put our God-given talents to work.
Knowledge of God	God is faithful and a fair judge, and He rewards those faithful to Him.
Good Work	We must strive to finish God’s work together, no matter when we begin the work. We must put our talents to use to help God and multiply them.

A. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1–16)

All men “fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). No matter how much we strive, we can never earn God’s salvation through our own deeds. Although it is true that each person will be given according to his labor (1 Cor 3:8; 15:58), we may sometimes feel that we “deserve” more or less than others. But in the end, because of God’s grace, we who have been chosen will receive the same reward: salvation.

Life Application

1. We have been given the opportunity to work in His vineyard by grace.
2. All the workers agreed to work for the wages determined by the landowner. Likewise, when God offers us His mercy and grace, we must accept it with gratitude.
3. One day, Jesus Christ will return, and He will reward those who have been chosen to do God’s work, regardless of what they have done. Do not compare your reward with others.

B. The Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14–30)

This parable serves as both a warning and a promise to all of God’s followers. Those who do not use the talents given by God will be punished, but those who use their talents will receive His blessings. As His children, God has given each of us a physical body, talents, gifts, and opportunities to serve. All are valuable and should be used to increase what He has given us, and to serve Him as best we can.

Life Application

1. God wants us to be diligent and faithful servants who work hard to increase what we already have. Those who serve Him well will “enter into the joy” of the Lord (Mt 25:23).
2. Laziness and fear are not valid excuses for avoiding service to God. He judges each individual by what we do with what He has given to us.
3. The talents that we have differ from those around us, but God values each of us as long as we serve one another wholeheartedly. The longer we serve, the more our talents grow for His purpose. Then, at the end, we can give an account of what we have done with what our Lord has given us.

Discussion

- When God calls us to be in His kingdom, we must use the talents God has given us to serve Him and the church. What are we currently using to serve Him?
- As we serve Him, are we allowing Him to mold and shape us into something useful to His glory and kingdom?
- Are we allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to help us live out the talents that God has given us? This transforming power lifts our life into something meaningful, just as He has intended.

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Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

The Parables of the Workers and of the Talents

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Matthew 25:23):

1. What are the consequences for using or not using the gifts God has given us?
2. What does it mean that “the last will be first, and the first last”?
3. What do the wages in the parable of the workers in the vineyard represent? What does this teach us about our salvation?
4. How does God want us to use our talents?
5. The faithful servants produced different results, but both were praised. What does this teach us about our own gifts in comparison to the gifts of others?
6. How can you personally become a diligent and faithful servant?