

Why the One-Talent Man Hid His Talent

Matthew 25:14-30

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Matthew 25:14-30**

B. A talent is a sum of money,

1. In the Biblical world, it was a weight; the value depended on what was being weighted-sometimes silver, sometimes gold.
2. In either case it was a huge sum.

C. In the parable of the talents, a man, also referred to as “the master,” was making an investment of money in the ability of his servants. As master, he had the a right to hold those who worked for him accountable and to expect a profit.

D. One purpose of a parable is to make us see ourselves. A parable succeeds when we realize, “Hey, that’s me!”

1. Many Christians are hiding their gifts and abilities with which the Lord has entrusted them.
2. The question becomes . . . Are you hiding yours?
3. Let us examine five reasons why the man in the parable hid the talent entrusted to him.

(1) - HE BELIEVED LIFE WAS UNFAIR.

A. **Matthew 25:24** – “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’”

B. Sometimes it is not that life is unfair, but that we neglect opportunities life affords.

1. Employers are looking almost in vain for workers who are honest and plite, get along well with people, and are willing to work.
2. People who show such characteristics almost always do well and get ahead.
3. Those who do not say life is unfair.

C. Sometimes life is unfair! We have to learn to live with that. Asking, “Why did this happen to me?” is not as important as contemplating “What did I do now?”

(2) - HE WAS AFRAID.

A. He explained in **Matthew 25:25** – “I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.”

B. Fear paralyzes. It keeps us from trying and makes us content with the status quo. “Status quo” is Latin for “the mess we’re in.”)

1. Fear becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.
 2. Because we think we cannot . . . We cannot
- C. The opposite of fear is faith.
- 1, Believe in the rightness of what you are doing, or else do not do it.
 2. Believe in God; He will help you accomplish good things.
 3. And believe in yourself. You are a child of God with potential and ability.
 4. Do not fear failure. Thomas Edison said he did not fail the first 1,000 times he experimented to try to find the right filament for the light bulb; rather, he learned 1,000 things that would not work.

(3) – PERHAPS HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF AND HIS ONE TALENT INSIGNIFICANT.

- A. No one is insignificant. The Bible uses the figure of the human body to assure us of that. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12.
1. The eye, the hand, the foot, the interior organs . . . They are all important.
 2. If any is missing, the body is hindered in the accomplishment of its tasks.
- B. I have read that there is a railroad switch in Lebanon, KY, that never moves more than three inches, but its setting determines whether a train ends up in New Orleans or Chicago.
1. One switch with little movement (3 inches).
 2. Regardless of whether you know it, you have influence . . . You too are significant!

(4) - HE WAS LAZY.

- A. His master answered him in **Matthew 25:26** – “You wicked and slothful servant!”
- B. The Bible condemns laziness. **Proverbs 24:30-34** – “I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.”
- C. The one-talent man may not have been lazy about everything, but he was lazy about what counted.

(5) - HE PROCRASTINATED.

- A. He explained in **Matthew 25:25** – “I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent
Many of Jesus’ pictures of final judgment involve a delay.
1. “But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed’...
Matthew 24:48

2. “As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.”
Matthew 25:5
3. “Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.” **Matthew 25:19**
4. “Be on guard, keep awake, for you do not know when the time will come.”
Mark 13:33

B. Because he hid his talent instead of using it. He was unprofitable (or worthless). Do not be worthless.

1. Use your abilities.
2. Help your neighbors.
3. Be involved in your local congregation.
4. Be a good manager or worker.
5. Be a good parent, student or spouse.

CONCLUSION:

A. Five reasons why the one-talent man hid his talent.

1. **He believed life was unfair.**
2. **He was afraid.**
3. **Perhaps he considered himself and his one talent insignificant.**
4. **He was lazy.**
5. **He procrastinated.**

B. Everyone, including the Lord at Judgment, wants to say to you, “Well done!” But for them to be able to do so, you will have to, in some sense, have done well.

C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**