

(Matt. 25:14) – The title of this message is taken from verse 29. In this parable, the Lord teaches us, as He did in the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13), that at the time of His second coming, there will be within the visible church on earth both true believers, saved by the grace of God, and false, graceless professors of truth. There are many passages in the Bible that warn us of this and show us how the free, sovereign grace of God makes the difference (Matt. 7:21-23; 13:18-23; 22:14; Luke 13:23-25; 17:32-33; 2 Cor. 13:5). But it is a difference of which we should be aware and seek God's mercy upon us as well as His power to bring us to be one of His true servants living for His glory.

The *"MAN TRAVELING INTO A FAR COUNTRY"* is the Lord Jesus Himself Who came from heaven to earth to die for the sins of His people imputed to Him and work out a perfect righteousness which the Lord has imputed to them. *"DELIVERED UNTO THEM HIS GOODS"* includes all the gifts, blessings, and benefits of salvation by which He saves and preserves them unto glory. They are all equally given all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3). They are blessings of salvation and eternal life which they have not earned or deserved; they are all freely given by God's grace in Christ (Rom. 8:32).

(Matt. 25:15) – Even though all of salvation is free, the Lord does give different *"TALENTS"* to people *"ACCORDING TO HIS SEVERAL ABILITY."* A "talent" was a large sum of money (silver or gold), but here it refers to the valuable gifts that God sovereignly gives to people, both believers and unbelievers. For believers these would include the spiritual gifts of ministry and service to be used for the glory of God and good of others (1 Cor. 12:1-11). For unbelievers these would include the natural abilities God gives to them, such as riches, intellect, health, etc. We know that unbelievers will not use their "talents" for the glory of God. "Ability" can be natural abilities that God gives to various people by which He holds them accountable. It can refer to God's ability to give gifts. Either way no "talent" is given to people because they earn or deserve it. It is all freely given by God either to His true servants in a spiritual way or to others in a providential way. (ex. Cyrus, Baalim, Judas)

(Matt. 25:16-17) – The Lord *"TOOK HIS JOURNEY"* would be the Lord Jesus ascending into heaven, seated at the Father's right hand, where He ever lives to make intercession for His people and awaiting the appointed time of His return. We see here how the servants used their talents during the Lord's absence up until His return. It is significant to note that even though Christ as Godman/Mediator is with His Father in heaven, He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is always with and within His true servants by His Spirit and His Word. He is always working and guiding in providence to accomplish His will for His glory and the salvation of all His people.

The two who received five and two talents used them wisely in obedience to the Lord and to the praise of the glory of His grace – witnessing and supporting the Gospel ministry through the church on earth seeking the lost sheep; worshiping with and supporting brethren in love and in truth. *“MADE THEM OTHER FIVE TALENTS”* and *“GAINED OTHER TWO”* do not refer to the heresy of earned rewards based on works. It simply refers to the talent as in the wise use of them they gained spiritual knowledge, their gifts were improved and enlarged, and through their use of these gifts many of God’s elect were brought to Christ and given the gift of spiritual life.

(Matt. 25:18) – The servant who received one talent did not use it. He *“WENT AND DIGGED IN THE EARTH, AND HID HIS LORD’S MONEY.”* This refers to those who profess to believe in Christ but who simply hide their talents. Rather than using the opportunities God has given them to seek, know, worship, serve, and glorify God, they neglect them. Most use their talents selfishly and/or self-righteously.

(Matt. 25:19-23) – When Christ returns, there will be a day of reckoning wherein He will declare before the universe the justification of all His true servants by His grace in Christ. Notice here that all true believers receive the same joyful, abundant reward from their Master. It is all of grace in and by the Lord Jesus Christ! All true servants have already been judged for all their sins as Christ, our Surety, died for them and satisfied the justice of God completely. They will stand before God in the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. In both cases, the Lord said, *“WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT: THOU HAST BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.”* To do well is to believe and rest in Christ and work unto His glory, not seeking salvation or reward based on our works, but resting in Him and His work for ALL salvation, being motivated by grace, love, and gratitude.

(Matt. 25:24-30) – *“FOR UNTO EVERY ONE THAT HATH SHALL BE GIVEN, AND HE SHALL HAVE ABUNDANCE: BUT FROM HIM THAT HATH NOT SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY EVEN THAT WHICH HE HATH”* (cf. Matt. 13:12). Those who have the true gift of God in Christ shall have more abundance in the day of judgment and glory. Those who have gifts but who do not have true faith in Christ, what gifts they do have will be taken away in the day of judgment. They are *“UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS”* and will be cast *“INTO OUTER DARKNESS.”* This is the end of all who die or are found at the time of Christ’s return in unbelief. They may have had many talents here on earth, but they had no saving grace and faith in Christ Who is the only way of salvation, eternal life, and final glory. Consider those whom the Lord described in Matthew 7:21-23. They had any talents, but they missed the true glory of God in the salvation of His people based on the righteousness of Christ imputed to His people.