

Under New Management

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[a] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents,[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 25:14-30

1. At the heart of the call to become Christian is the need to surrender our lives to Christ who becomes our Lord in an exchange.
2. The ultimate rule or authority in the life of a sinner is what that person wants or desires or self-will.
3. Every human being is either living in submission to God, (believer) or following their own inclinations with no respect for God. (sinner)
4. In Luke 15 we read of the prodigal son. There is a change early in life that alienates him from the Father. and another change later in life that reunites them. The change that unites is one of pride to humility, a willingness to give up a demand for rights and be a servant.

5. Christianity is a move away from self-sovereignty to making Christ the Lord or King over my life.
6. When Jesus is Lord of us we stop thinking as "owners" and become "managers."
7. Applying the Parable of the Talents
 - A. Jesus is the master in this story.
 - B. All humanity are represented by the servants.
 - C. The talents represent resources of every kind.
 - D. Every resource is a trust from God.
 - E. The dispersement of talents is God's choice.
 - F. Greater resources mean greater responsibility.
 - G. A life invested is blessed over one unemployed.
 - H. A time of judgment will come for all.
8. In order to do well we must develop a God- consciousness in our lives while he is "away."
9. "Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant." Stephen Covey
10. God has called us to live in peace. Just as sure as there is a call, there is a path to it as well.
11. Our natural inclinations draw us towards procrastination.
12. The world around us draws us into diversion, going in many directions at once.

Put your little in the hands of God who can make much out of it.