

The background of the image is a wide-angle photograph of a desert. A light-colored dirt road with visible tire tracks curves from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. The road is flanked by sparse, low-lying desert vegetation. In the distance, a range of rugged, brown mountains rises against a pale, overcast sky. The overall tone of the image is muted and atmospheric.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

1) The parable of Timing vv. 32-44

- The signs show nearness, but the arrival is not known.

2) The parable of Watchfulness vv. 45-51

- A warning for tribulation Jews to be watchful for the return of Christ.

3) The parable of Readiness vv. 1-13

- A warning for tribulation Jews to be ready for the return of Christ. A time of waiting is a time to prepare.

II. THE KINGDOM HAS NOT 13:54-28:20

6. The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46

(Matthew 25:14-30)

*“Jewish readiness parable #3:
The Talents”*

Outline:

1. Called to a task vv. 14-15
2. Opportunity for faithfulness vv. 16-18
3. Certainty of assessment vv. 19-30

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1. Called to a task vv. 14-15

A. Determining what it says:

- The parable's framework v. 14
- The delegation v. 15

The Parable's Framework:

- “Kingdom of heaven is like” *not in mss.
 - i.e. a development to previous parable.
 - Cf. Mt. 24:32-44
- Likened to a man traveling far away v. 14a
- Who gave stewardship to servants v. 14b
- Stewardship was their task

1. Called to a task vv. 14-15

A. Determining what it says:

- The delegation v. 15
 - Stewardship = “Talents” v. 15a

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- Talent = 55-80lbs
 - (A measurement for various metals... usually precious metals)
- 6,000 denarii = 1 Tyrian talent
 - (1 denarius = 1 day's wage)
- Note... the talents are not specified.

1. Called to a task vv. 14-15

A. Determining what it says:

- The delegation v. 15
 - Stewardship = “Talents” v. 15a
 - The portions v. 15b
 - 1) The first servant received 5 talents
 - 2) The second servant received 2 talents
 - 3) The third servant received 1 talent

Understanding the portions v. 15b

- \$115/day (\$42k/yr.) *minimum wage
- $\$115 \times 6,000$ (1 talent) = \$690,000
- $\$115 \times 12,000$ (2 talents) = \$1,380,000
- $\$115 \times 30,000$ (5 talents) = \$3,450,000

5 talents = abt. 30,000 denarii
2 talents = abt. 12,000 denarii
1 talent = abt. 6,000 denarii

1. Called to a task vv. 14-15

A. Determining what it says:

- The delegation v. 15
 - Stewardship = “Talents” v. 15a
 - The portions v. 15b
 - Portion is proportionate to ability v. 15c

Summary/Application:

- A task given from Lord, to servant.
- The stewardship was significantly valuable.
- Proportionate to the capability of the servant.
- God gives tasks.
- The tasks are important!
- God gives in proportion to your capabilities!
(cf. Eph. 2:10)

Outline:

1. Called to a task vv. 14-15
2. Opportunity for faithfulness vv. 16-18
3. Certainty of assessment vv. 19-30

2. Opportunity for faithfulness vv. 16-18

A. Determining what it says:

- The first servant's stewardship
 - Doubled their portion v. 16
- The second servant's stewardship
 - Doubled their portion v. 17
- The third servant's stewardship
 - Buried their portion v. 18

“The third servant, having received the one talent, reasoned that his master **might not be coming back at all**. If he did return someday, the servant could simply return the talent to his master without loss from any poor investment (v. 25). But if he failed to return, the servant wanted to be able to keep the talent for himself. **He did not want to deposit the talent in a bank where it would be recorded that the talent belonged to the master** (v. 27). His reasoning indicated **he lacked faith in his master**; he proved to be a worthless servant.”

- Louis A. Barbieri Jr., “Matthew,” BKC

Summary/Application:

- The first two servants were good stewards.
- The third servant was suspect.
- The task has been given to them and 2/3 were faithful with their opportunity.
- The window of opportunity was the Lord's absence.
- What is our task?
- How do I use my opportunity?

Outline:

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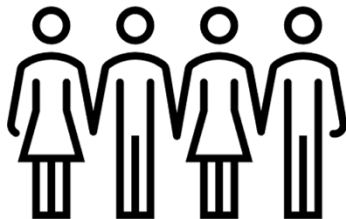
A. Determining what it says:

- The settlement v. 19
 - 1) The Bema-seat
 - 2) Jewish kingdom entrance
 - 3) Gentile kingdom entrance
 - 4) Great White Throne

Believer & Unbeliever Judgments:



Believers:
Bema Seat



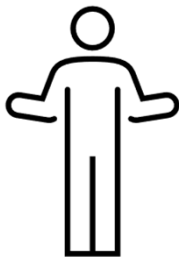
Unbelievers:
Great White Throne



Kingdom Entrance Judgments:



Jewish Entrance:



Gentile Entrance:

Sheep & Goats



3. Certainty of assessment vv. 19-30

A. Determining what it says:

- The settlement v. 19 (servant #1)
 - His report v. 20
 - His reward v. 21
 - 1) Made ruler over “many things”
 - 2) Enters the joy of his Lord

3. Certainty of assessment vv. 19-30

A. Determining what it says:

- The settlement v. 19 (servant #2)
 - His report v. 20
 - His reward v. 21
 - 1) Made ruler over “many things”
 - 2) Enters the joy of his Lord

3. Certainty of assessment vv. 19-30

A. Determining what it says:

- The settlement v. 19 (servant #3)
 - His report vv. 24-25
 - His rebuke v. 26
 - His correction v. 27
 - His reward v. 28
 - The Lord's principle v. 29
 - His judgment v. 30

- The first two servants are rewarded with further responsibility combined with entrance into the kingdom.
- The third servant is stripped of his responsibility and restricted entrance.
- What they did with their opportunity impacted their eternity.
- What have I done, and can I do, to have rewards in the kingdom?



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