

Conclusion. Take the talent from him and cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness and there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Let us see the poor comfort of outer darkness. Let us be convinced of the crime and folly, cowardice of a buried talent. Then we shall turn to His strong courage Whose words shall not pass. His counsel will stand still be the law when heaven and earth have dissolved like a mist.

III. Young woman giving of her none too abundant Means, Time & strength for a little wooden Mission Church. Porter even reasoned with her. She said my brother is a business man. He never takes a day off. thinks, eats, sleeps - business - I ask him one day why so much effort. He said I'm putting my life in it - soon it will pay off in dividends. She said pointing to the little wooden Church what I'm doing - putting my life into it & my talents will pay off in large dividends.

Mr Allen in Ky. Church disbanded 1801 yr opened door, sang hymns as organ, led lesson, next yr a little red head, wanted a revival, preacher looked around him going home, what, going to retreat before the 1st shot is fired? revival began last night only a few, 1st imitation little red head came, prayed all night, led 50 to come - Someone said - Emily you've been a fool for Christ -

plaza 8/11/6 3/10/25/64 Indian River 2/4/55
Tabernacle 11/10/59
Norton 3/19/57

Matt. 25:14-30
Introduction:

Jesus daringly predicted that though heaven and earth might dissolve His words would still live. He believed His message to be indestructible; and history as it unfolds is His vindication. His message was originally spoken to a few, not many wise, not many mighty but is now pondered by the race. Each succeeding generation brings its tribute to His authority. This parable of the talents is evidence. Great men have felt in it the spear-thrust of truth.

Instances of the convincing power of the parable might be multiplied. With good warrant did Jesus once prophesy; " My words shall not pass away ".

In His day provincial rulers would journey to Rome at the accession of a new emperor to crave continuance of their rights. Sometimes the subjects of the subordinate monarch would make counter plea that their ruler be deposed.

Herod the Great, thus sought favor first of Mark Antony and later of Augustus. The servants left in charge of affairs during the absence of their king on such an errand needed all the faithfulness they could muster. Such faithfulness found ample test in the hostility of the populace. If their lord should be deposed loyalty to him might cost them their lives. But if they were found unfaithful the rulers of that day were none too lenient with unfaithful servants.

It is on such a page of contemporary history that the parable of the talents are grafted.

- I. TALENTS RECEIVED.
- 1. There were three servants.
- One was given five talents..one given 2..other 1.
- 1. The first followed the market closely, knew the prospects of the crops, anticipated the arrival of caravans from Damascus, through the information he gleaned he was able to make a profit of 100 per cent
- 2nd. this man was a honest fellow with none of the mental quickness of his talented neighbor. He plodded away at his task from sun up till sun set. So by sheer fidelity of toil he made his two talents yeild four.
- 3rd. He was of a different stripe.. hid his in the ground. This was the traditional way of saving money.

He had read his lord's character, knew him to be the type of Herod, reaping where he did not sow. He was afraid. He had kept his talent with most scrupulous care. Too scrupulous care. That was his crime! He would have proved himself more of a man had he planned and risked and lost.

Such was the story. It drew daringly on Judean politics for its background. If to-day it stabs wide awake our unexamined lives we may well believe that when it was first told it struck home with a point of truth exceeding sharp.

Unto one he gave 5 talents, another 2, another 1, to each according to his several ability. A clear & sober statement of the inequality of human endowment.

We are thrust into this world without our knowledge or consent. We are not consulted as to our equipment of body and spirit. On reaching yrs of maturity we begin to realize that certain gifts and graces are ours within measure and that certain others have been denied us.

*** Shakespeare has five talents in literature. Michelangelo 5 in art, Savonarola 5 in preaching, Edison 5 in invention.

The vast majority have two talents. They are the useful host of mediocrity. Then there are the people whom seem limited and handicapped--the one talented people.

All men are created equal in the sense that God intends that every man shall have an equal chance to prove himself, but the historic statement when taken at its face value is not defensible.

We are not unequal in native gift, One man a Shakespeare & another always a hack writer.

Unequal in opportunity..one able to rise to a throne while another living out his lonely days as a trapper in a far off woods.

Unequal in advantages.one born in poverty another born in riches..ALL men are created unequal.

II. EXPECTATIONS OF EACH ONE.

Each one is expected to produce of his talents that he might satisfy the giver of the talents. Those that have more are expected to produce more while those that only have two or one are only expected to produce that amount.

"To the measure" To the measure in which a man is gifted, to that same measure is he accountable. Each talent carries an obligation of production.

1. Everyman has some talent. It must be understood, lest heaven be charged with a gross favoritism, that the story represents every man as having some talent. No one is left empty-handed.

Singing by Note - Letter go.
Receiving the masters approval of satisfaction is the thing to achieve.

Both of the first men received the same commendation not an accent of the voice was changed.

III. Widows gift in the temple didn't received such a hearty recommendation because of the monetary value behind it but judging it from a love value she gave more than all the others put together.

The question is not, How many talents have you earned but how many in comparison with those entrusted to you.

The demand is not what treasure but what faithfulness

To do it in such a way as to receive..Well done thou good and faithful servant.

III. The One Talented Man. The story is told for his benefit. He wasn't mean, a drunkard etc. but was lacking in courage & failed. He did not see that his talent was needed.

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III. In building this church it took the talents of many different people in order to complete the job. *Complete consecration - mother gives child plant for his life. pluck a leaf each day - many people pluck a leaf for Jesus spoke of the one talents in other places. Spoke of the crucial importance of a cup of cold water. a casual visit. widows mite, unknown Simon carrying the cross.*

But the one talented man succumbing to the one - talent temptation, was blind to everything except life's surface. His worst fault, however was that he lacked courage. He shrank from risk. The universe is amazingly fruitful for talents. But if neglected if unriskened they vanish. Hiding them in the ground they soon rot.

Power used with discretion & adventure is increased power. power left stagnant is seized with paralysis. We must cultivate that which we have been given lest it go to waste.