

The Parable of the Talents

The Parable of the Talents is a story Jesus told to show people that **everyone** is called to do their best for God. Everyone should use what they are good at to make the world a better place.

The Parable of the Talents

(Matthew, chapter 25, verses 14 -30)

There was a man who was just about to set out on a long journey.

Before he went he called his three servants to him to put them in charge.

To one servant he gave 5000 gold coins to look after.

To the next he gave 2000 gold coins.

To the last he gave 1000 gold coins.

The one he gave 5000 coins to invested the money and earned another 5000 coins.

The one he gave 2000 coins to invested the money and earned another 2000 coins.

But the one he gave 1000 coins to dug a hole in the ground and hid the money.

When the master came back from his long journey he was pleased to see that the first two servants had used their money wisely and earned some more. He said that they would be trusted with even more next time.

He was cross with the last servant because he had made nothing of the money given to him. He said that he should have put the money in a bank where it would have earned interest.

He said, "**For the person who has something, even more will be given; but the person who has nothing even what he has will be taken away**".

What does it mean?

This parable is not telling you to gather up all your money and run and put it in the nearest bank. It is not really about money at all.

Think of the master as God giving each of us talents and gifts. Everybody is good at something. We should work at discovering our talents and developing them to make ourselves and the lives of others even better. Maybe you think you're not very good at something and don't think it's even worth trying. Think of two people with the same amount of talent in a subject. One gives up and doesn't even do as well as he could; the other works really hard and surprises everyone on how well he's done. God wants us **all** to do our best with whatever talent we've got.

Match up these ideas from the story and the meaning.

Master	Someone who works hard to develop his/her talents
Servant given 1000 coins	Talents and gifts
Gold coins	God
Servant given 2000 coins	Someone who gives up trying to get better