

God gave it to you. Use it for Him.



Planting Seeds

In this lesson, we will take a look at the Parable of the Talents. Through this story, Jesus teaches us that when we make an investment of our time, money and talents in Him that we indeed reap what we sow. This lesson should cause all of us to re-evaluate what we are putting in to our relationship with God and the work of the Church. He promises that when He returns that we will be rewarded according to our deeds.

The Sowing and Reaping Principle

Whatever you plant in the ground will one day grow...



The Sowing and Reaping Principle

- Galatians 6: 7-8
- 2 Corinthians 9:6
- Proverbs 11:18
- Proverbs 22:8

So...What kind of seed are you sowing? Is it good seed or bad seed?



The Parable of the Talents

In biblical times, the word “talent” was used to describe a unit of money or weight. In our times, we think of the word talent as a special gift. For the purpose of our study, we shall use both meanings of the word.

The Parable of the Talents

- Matthew 25: 14-18
 - The first two men put all of their talent to work and **received a double portion back**. You get the sense that if you look at this from a non-spiritual perspective that there was some risk involved. Was it a good idea to “put all their money to work?”
 - What do you think the man who dug a hole and hid his master’s money was thinking? **Do some of us do this with our “talent?”** Why?
 - Notice that the men were **entrusted** to do what was right with their talent while their master was away on a journey. What point is Jesus emphasizing by letting us know that their master was away?

Our Master shall return and take an account of what we have done with our “talent”.

The importance of having faith...

- Matthew 25: 19-25
 - The first two men had faith and put their money to work. The third man was afraid (verse 25) and hid his talent
 - When we are afraid to put our talent to work, it demonstrates our lack of faith
 - When the Master returns, He evaluates the performance of His servants. He wants to know what each servant did with what he was entrusted with?
 - What has our Master entrusted you with? Would He be pleased with what you have done with it?

The Promise

- Matthew 25: 26-30
 - Why do you think his master used the words, “You wicked, lazy servant”. He called him wicked and lazy for hiding his talent. Why do you think he used those particular words?
 - Abundance is promised for those who are good stewards. For those who are not good stewards, what they have will be taken away. ***What they sowed is what they shall reap.***
 - He refers to the servant who did not make good use of his talent as worthless and demands that he be thrown outside in darkness

Our Assignment... Our Responsibility

- God does not look favorably upon us when we dodge our assignment or our responsibility in the Church
 - Moses didn't want to be sent to confront Pharaoh and God burned with anger
 - Exodus 4: 10-14
 - Jonah didn't want to go where the Lord sent him and he was swallowed up by a whale
 - Jonah 1: 3-4
 - Paul recognized that his responsibility was to preach and that he would be punished if he didn't complete his assignment
 - 1 Corinthians 9: 16-17

Lessons Learned

- Whether it be good or bad, we will reap what we sow
- We all have been given a responsibility or an assignment by God and it is our duty to fulfill it
- God gives us the talent we need to accomplish what He desires from us
- When we bury our talent that can be used for Him, it shows our lack of dedication and faith
- We will one day have to give an account to Him for how we used that which He has blessed us with
- When we use what He has given us wisely and fulfill our assignment, He will bless us accordingly