

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR MASTER'S WEALTH?

The Parable of the Stewards

Matthew 25:14 -30

Continuing with our Lord's parables in Matthew 25 concerning His coming again, we come to the "Parable of the Talents" (as it has often been called). Comparing this parable with that of the Wise & Foolish Virgins (vv.1-13) – Both are directed by Jesus to His followers (today, the Church) & both urge us to be prepared when He comes again –

the Parable of the Virgins – by watching & being ready;

the Parable of the Stewards – by working for the Lord until He comes.

What does that mean for us?

1. The Church's stewardship of the King's Treasure

In a nutshell: a rich man, before leaving on a long journey, entrusts his wealth to three of his servants (stewards); and when he finally returns he demands an accounting of what they have done with his wealth —rewarding two and punishing the 3rd.

We know right away that –

- the rich man represents Christ, who was about to return to heaven, &

- the servants picture His followers / disciples (the Church).

BUT *what is the treasure* which He has entrusted to them (& to us)?

NOT "talents" in the sense of abilities (Gk *talanton* = a unit of money).

Is it all of our earthly possessions (which could include our abilities & time, etc.), understood as a stewardship from the Lord?

Let us ask the Word: What is the treasure we have from Christ?

See Matt. 6:20 – treasure in heaven (Christ Himself).

See 1 Cor. 4:1 "stewardship of the mysteries of God" or Eph.3:2-7, 2 Timothy 1:13,14 (with 1 Tim.1:11, 2:2), Jude 3.

The treasure of our King is the riches of God's grace (Eph.1:7, 2:7) revealed in the gospel that has been entrusted to the Church.

We are to preserve this treasure as a sacred trust

& ALSO to put it to work for the glory of Christ (hence, Matt.28:18-20).

2. Two contrasting discharges of duty – Which are you / am I?

Two servants – giving differing amounts of wealth – put their Master's "talents" to work and produced a profit for Him.

They put the Gospel to work and gained glory for Christ - through the gathering in of converts & the extension of the Kingdom.

The 3rd servant just buried the Gospel (in defiance of Matt.5:14-16).

Why? Because he had no love for Christ and thought ill of Him.

3. Two contrasting verdicts or rewards – Which will be yours?

On the Day of Judgment -

The servants who put the Gospel to work give joy to the Lord and receive a reward from Him.

But what of the one who despised the Lord and buried the gospel?

He is found to be not a believer at all and is cast into hell.