

PARABLE OF THE POUNDS

and

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

POUNDS

LUKE 19:11-27

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TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

“POUND” / “MINA”

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The “mina” was an ancient unit of weight equivalent to 300 shekels. The mina, like the shekel, was also a unit of currency; in ancient Greece it was equal to 100 drachmae. In the first century AD, it amounted to about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wages earned annually by an agricultural worker.

“TALENT”

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The "talent" was one of several ancient units of mass, as well as corresponding units of value equivalent to these masses of a precious metal. It was approximately the mass of water required to fill an amphora. A heavy common talent, used in New Testament times, was 58.9 kilograms (130 lb.).

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LUKE 19:11-27

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

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MATTHEW 25:14-30

14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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SIMILARITIES

- man travels to other country and returns

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- allocates resources, expects profit

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- first 2 servants are faithful, praised, given more authority

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- allocates resources, expects profit
- first 2 servants are faithful, praised, given more authority
- third servant hides what was entrusted
- **third servant blames master**

- third servant claims fear of master

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- third servant makes no profit

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- third servant makes no profit
- first 2 servants rewarded, third is punished

- third servant claims fear of master
- third servant makes no profit
- first 2 servants rewarded, third is punished
- what was given to unfaithful servant taken and given to most faithful

7

DIFFERENCES

- timing of Matthew and Luke accounts

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- Luke: 10 servants; Matthew: 3 servants

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- Luke: “nobleman”; Matthew: ?

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- Luke: 10 servants; Matthew: 3 servants
- Luke: “nobleman”; Matthew: ?
- Luke: same \$; Matthew: various talents

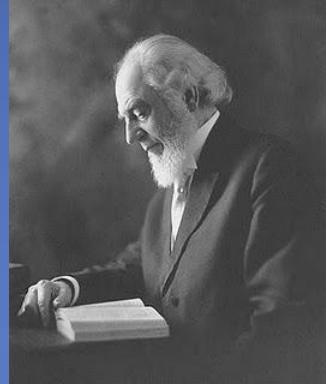
- Luke: “do business”; Matthew: ?

- Luke: “do business”; Matthew: ?
- Luke: another separate group

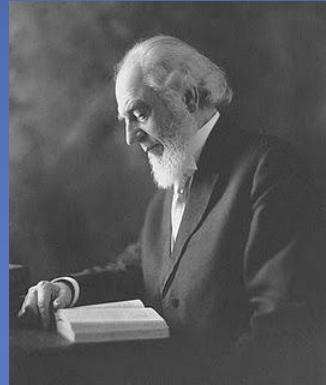
- Luke: “do business”; Matthew: ?
- Luke: another separate group
- Luke: to correct misconception re Kingdom of God; Matthew: ?

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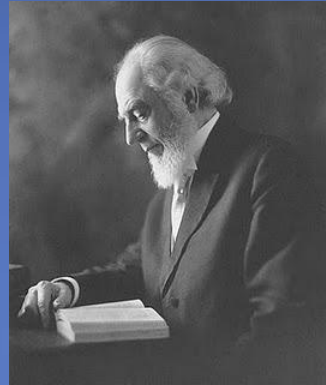


PARABLE OF THE POUNDS



“The pound is the same to all. It represents justification.” R5492

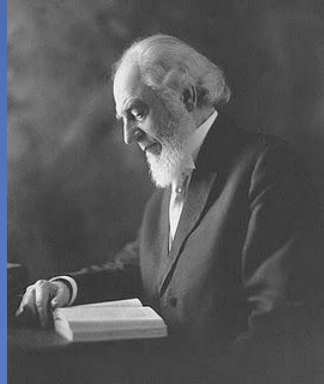
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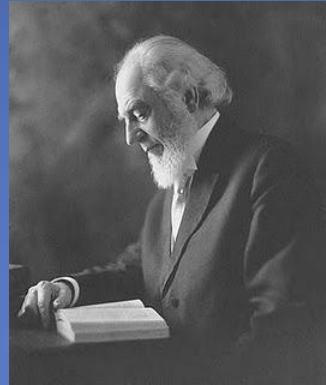
“The one thing which the Redeemer does for all who become his followers is to justify them.”

R5492

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

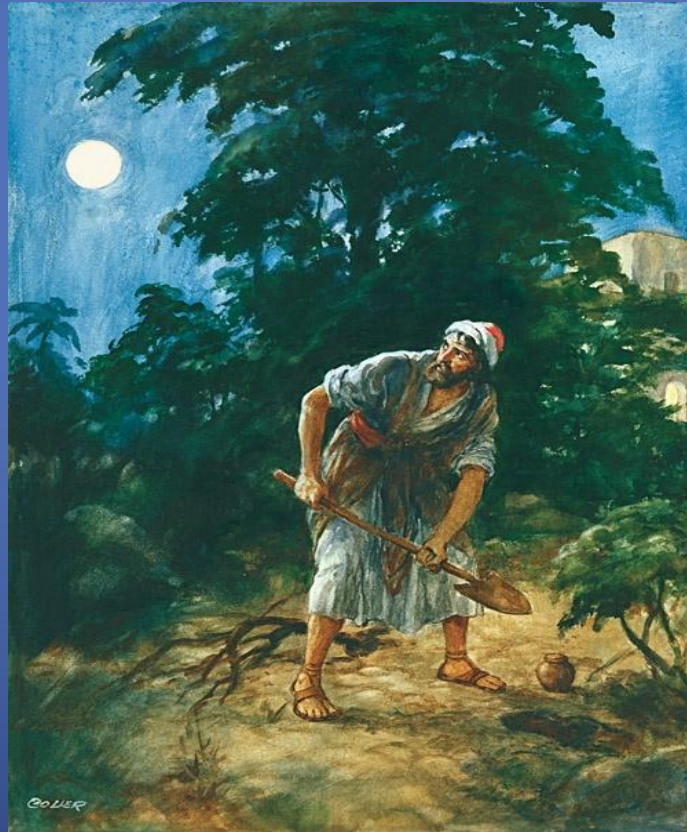


PARABLE OF THE TALENTS



“...represents our opportunities for service according to our several abilities.” R5386

LESSONS FROM THESE 2 PARABLES



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

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- “talents” are abilities that you naturally possess

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- the more talents you possess, the more responsibility you have

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PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- “talents” are abilities that you naturally possess
- the more talents you possess, the more responsibility you have
- some brethren have many talents
- no one has no talents

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- a “pound” represents justification

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- justification is a gift of unmerited grace

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- a “pound” represents justification
- justification is a gift of unmerited grace
- we are responsible for what we do with our relationship with the Lord

BOTH PARABLES

BOTH PARABLES

- doing “nothing” with our abilities, or our standing with the Lord, is never acceptable

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- doing “nothing” with our abilities, or our standing with the Lord, is never acceptable
- applies to both character and doctrine

BOTH PARABLES

- do not mistake style for substance

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- a pound is more valuable than a talent

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- Do not mistake style for substance
- A pound is more valuable than a talent

(The gifts that God gives us are more important than the ones we give to him.)

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