

Matthew 25:14-30

### Gospel Reflection

The word "talent" was first used for a unit of weight, about 75 pounds. Later, it was used for a unit of coinage. In modern English, talent indicates an ability or a gift. Dictionary.com provides one definition as "a power of mind or body considered as given to a person for use and improvement, so called from the parable in Matthew."

On the surface, at the time of Jesus, one would hear this parable and think of money. In that context, the servant who didn't invest the one talent seems to have been treated very harshly. If the parable is interpreted allegorically, the lesson becomes clear. The talents refer to gifts given by God to His people. The knowledge of the historical texts, and more importantly the current knowledge and relationship to Jesus. The servant given the five talents can be seen as having much faith and a personal relationship and going out into the community and spreading the word, sharing his knowledge, love, and faith with those in the community. Putting that faith into action, and spreading the kingdom of God.

The servant given the single talent, hid it under a bushel basket. I think of the Pharisees and Sadducees who had spent their entire lives studying the Torah, but then kept all that knowledge to themselves, not willing to share what they had gained with their community. It's no wonder the Master was so angry. The servant was afraid to go out into the world and share his wealth. So, what are we afraid of? Are we investing our talents in mankind? Or, are we hiding them in the ground?

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