

Parable of the Talents: Use it or lose it! (Matthew 25:14-30)

Currency and Weight in the Hebrew Scriptures



Gerah (1/20 shekel)
0.57 g / 0.01835 oz t
10 gerahs = 1 bekah

Bekah
5.7 g / 0.1835 oz t
2 bekahs = 1 shekel

Pim
7.8 g / 0.2508 oz t
1 pim = 2/3 shekel

Shekel
11.4 g / 0.367 oz t
50 shekels = 1 mina

Mina
570 g / 18.35 oz t
60 minas = 1 talent

Talent
34.2 kg / 1,101 oz t

Shekel weight


Daric
(Persian, gold)
8.4 g / 0.27 oz t
Ezra 8:27


Pound (Roman)
327 g / 11.5 oz
John 12:3
"A pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard"



Mina
100 drachmas
340 g / 10.9 oz t
Luke 19:13
= about 100 days' wages

Talent
60 minas
20.4 kg / 654 oz t
Matthew 18:24
Revelation 16:21
= about 20 years' wages

Currency and Weight in the Christian Greek Scriptures



Lepton
(Jewish, copper or bronze)
1/2 quadrans
Luke 21:2

Quadrans
(Roman, copper or bronze)
2 lepta
Matthew 5:26

Assarion
(Roman and provincial, copper or bronze)
4 quadrantes
Matthew 10:29

Denarius
(Roman, silver)
64 quadrantes
3.85 g / 0.124 oz t
Matthew 20:10

Drachma
(Greek, silver)
3.4 g / 0.109 oz t
Luke 15:8

Didrachma
(Greek, silver)
2 drachmas
6.8 g / 0.218 oz t
Matthew 17:24

Tetradrachma
(Greek, silver; also called silver stater)
4 drachmas
13.6 g / 0.436 oz t
Matthew 17:27

Tetradrachma of Antioch


Tetradrachma of Tyre
(Silver shekel of Tyre)


1 Day's Wages (12 hours) 2 Days' Wages 3 Days' Wages 4 Days' Wages

How much is a talent? Even just the meager one talent is more valuable than we may imagine!

One Talent was valued at about 6,000 denarii; 1 denarius is approximately one day's labor.

One talent constituted about 20 years' worth of wages!

The Model of Christian Discipleship is the Faithful Servant

Matthew 23:11 "The greatest among you must be your **servant**."

John 13:12-15 "So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. **If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to** wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Matthew 20:28 "Just so, the Son of Man **did not come to be served but to serve** and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke 17:9-10 "Is the master grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, '**We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.**'"

We are called to follow Jesus' command, using whatever (little or great) he entrusts to us

Luke 9:1-6 Commanding of the 12 (Luke 10:1-12 He commands the 72 to mission) "He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure

diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal [the sick]. He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them." Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

We use whatever God entrusts to us, but realize it is all for God's glory-not our gain

Luke 10:17-20 "The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I give you the power 'to tread upon serpents' & scorpions & upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

2 John 1:8 "Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for but may receive a full recompense."

Matthew 7:7-8 "**Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.** For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Compassion for the little man's plight: How about the weaker, risk-averse man, only 1 talent?

Matt 25:29 "**For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**" Matthew repeats this here from earlier Matthew 13:12 "*To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*" (Parallels are found in Luke repeated twice in Lk 19:26 & Lk 8:18; but only once in Mark 4:25)

BUT, if God wants trust not more talents, then compare to Matthew 17:20 "Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you.**"

Isaiah 49:23 "none who hope in me shall be ashamed"

Romans 5:3-5 "we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and **hope does not disappoint,**"

1 Corinthians 10:13 "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it."

Trust little things grow gradually to become greater and greater/start with any faith!

The Gift or Talent is from God for His glorification, but only for our sanctification.

So we are humble servants, doing as He calls us to, and trusting His will, will be done.

Luke 5:5-6, 11 "Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they *caught a great number of fish* and their nets were tearing." Then verse 11 "When they brought their boats to the shore, *they left everything* and followed him."

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth."

Gifts/Talents: Discern your Gifts from God

& Use them for His Glorification & Your Sanctification/Fulfillment

John 10:10 "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom [of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides."

Colossians 3:1-2 "Seek what is above,....Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3)

- Wisdom – Time & Experience, Remember your days, reflect upon your times
- Knowledge – Study subjects, ask questions, classify, name and define (vocabulary)
- Understanding – Seek connections & links between things; causes & correlations
- Counsel – Talk with others, share your experiences and seek input from others
- Fortitude – Knowing what to do, now you have to do it; be strong and put into action
- Piety – Be humbly devoted to your action; invest yourself & be faithful in following thru.
- Fear of the Lord – God is still, always in control. We serve God, living under judgement.

--God gives each person different gifts and abilities (Matthew 12:14-29; Romans 12:6).

--God gives us gifts to use in serving others (I Peter 4:10; I Corinthians 12:7; Mark 10:43, 44).

--God wants us to develop and use the gifts he has given us (Matthew 25:14-29; 1 Peter 4:10).

--God will help us develop our spiritual gifts and He will give us opportunities to use them, and other people to help us develop those gifts to serve others. Biblical examples: Aaron helps Moses speak (Ex 4:14), Aaron and Hur hold up Moses hands (Ex 17), Paul & Ananias (Acts 9:17-19), All the apostles 2x2 (Luke 10:1, Mark 6:7), etc.....

-- God so designs the Body of Christ, that when each person uses the gifts God has given, the Body of Christ is most fulfilled, working in top order and grace (I Corinthians 12:14-26).

Romans 12:6-8 "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit **the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.** But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes."

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 "Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, **first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty**

deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

So what is Your Gift? What talents has God blessed you with to fulfill the Body of Christ?

Quick Review List:

Compassionate: I try hard to understand others, and imagine life in their shoes.

Giving: I like to share.

Servant: I like to help others.

Leader: When there is a job to do, I volunteer. I also look for things to help others do.

Merciful: I feel sorry for people who are sad, or sick, or struggling.

Teacher: I like to help others learn how to do things.

Patient: I can wait in line or stand calmly by without getting upset.

Humorous: I make people laugh by things I say and do.

Hard worker: I don't give up or quit until the job is done.

Dependable: You can trust and rely upon me to do what you ask.

Friend: I am kind and willing to be a friend, and good listener to others.

Longer List to Discern in Prayer:

Leadership - Leadership builds up the body by directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Rom. 12:8).

Administration - Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task.

Administration organizes others according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Cor. 12:28).

Teaching - Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and growing the body (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

Knowledge - The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God's Word. (1 Cor. 12:28).

Wisdom - Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

Prophecy - The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This strengthens consciences and exposes sin and leads to conversion. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 12:6).

Discernment - Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests our words and deeds, to make witness genuine/authentic for all the body (1 Cor. 12:10)

Exhortation - Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of God. People with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. (Rom. 12:8).

Shepherding - The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others.

Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not only them (Eph. 4:11).

Faith - Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

Evangelization - Jesus is shared with others through the teaching words and actions of faithful followers. To those who do not know Jesus, good witnesses of His are the best introduction for them (Eph. 4:11).

Service/Servants - Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

Mercy - Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. These make others aware of helpful opportunities, too (Rom. 12:8).

Giving - Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and generosity are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Rom. 12:8).

Hospitality - Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They are open to others and welcoming to others by their attention and service to even simple needs. (1 Pet. 4:9).

Divisity of Spiritual Gifts

S L D S S T I R I P S G N I N R E C S I D Q W B
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message

Bible

faith

idols

Paul

spiritual

mute

Holy Spirit

gifts

interpretation

prophecy

tongues

kinds

Corinthians

God

Jesus

speaking

wisdom

church

discerning spirits

healing

knowledge

Spirit of God

working miracles

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

I AM GOOD AT...



SPEAKING



WORKING



SAVING MONEY



COMFORTING

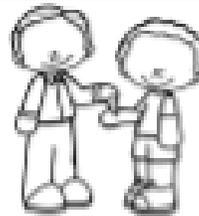
I LIKE...



LEARNING



HELPING OTHERS



SHARING

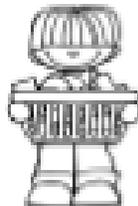


SOLVING PROBLEMS

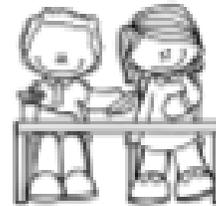
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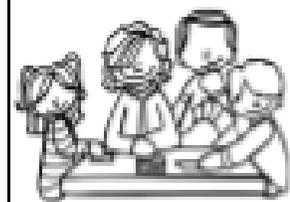
READING



COMPLETING TASKS



MEETING NEEDS



BEING WITH OTHERS

I AM...



INDEPENDENT



HUMBLE



GENEROUS



POSITIVE



Teaching



Serving



Giving



Encouraging