

## Know the Meaning

The circumstances of life are something you live with each day. In God's system of life, it's not about how much you have it's about using what you have for Him.

Each day, life gives you opportunities that show you who you really are and what's really inside you. Keeping this in mind, look at the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-18). You should evaluate yourself HONESTLY to find your strengths and abilities in life's circumstances.

*“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money” (Matthew 25: 14-18 , NKJV).*

A talent was a unit of measurement for weighing and learning the value of something. Knowing the meaning or value of a talent can help give you context, or a deeper understanding, or even a better perspective when studying the Scriptures. God is wanting to show you the value of your daily life. Is the battle intense? Then the value behind it carries greater significance.

Jesus is teaching that it isn't the amount of talent you are given, it's what you do with what you have that matters. That means things you deal with each day.

*Richard L. Rohrbaugh examines the Parable of the Talents' meaning in his Biblical Views column “Reading the Bible Through Ancient Eyes” in the September/October 2016 issue of Biblical Archaeology Review.*

Although the story itself is fairly straightforward, Rohrbaugh argues that the Parable of the Talents' meaning is less clear. An ancient audience would have interpreted it differently than a modern one.

Your daily life is a gift from God and comes through the things involving your daily life. This includes the circumstances of your life. Are you seeing this? Don't a lot of your circumstances bring things out from within you that you didn't know were there? Or how many times have you seen something emerge that help you, that you didn't know were there! (Not to mention those times where what comes out actually helps or touches others around you).

Each day life presents you with multiple opportunities to show you who you really are and what's inside you. Your "talents" involve what's happening in your life. What matters is letting God use your life for His glory and purposes.

One day, you will have to answer for what you did or didn't do with the circumstances in your life. You may not always see it, but God has equipped you with everything you need to accomplish and fulfill your purposes (yes I mean plural purposes) in this life.

Stewardship is about everything in your life. God wants you to use your circumstances to glorify Him and He wants you to steward every circumstance for Him!

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward" (Colossians 3:23-24;ESV).

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