

## Matthew 25:14-15

*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.*

We are all familiar with the parable about the talents, and how the master gave these men each a different amount of talents to invest while he was *traveling to a far country*. Two of the men invested and got back more. But the other one buried his one talent in the ground and did nothing with it at all, other than hide it.

The master's reply was, *"You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest."*

**Matthew 25:26-27**

And we all read this and think that the one who did nothing with the talent was rebuked for not getting any money back, or investing it to receive more, which is true. But I think it's more than just that, I think it has to do more with being obedient, than how much you get back. Why do I say that? Because of what the master said to the other two, which was, *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'* **Matthew 25:23**

Notice the master didn't say, *"Well done god and prosperous servant."* or *"Well done on making big bucks for me."* No, the two were praised for being faithful, not for how much they got. I wonder if the one guy would had invested, yet got nothing, would had still heard, *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'* simply for his obedience?

Yet we put so much emphasis on the quantity that a ministry has versus those who are faithful to do what they are called to do? We look at mega churches and think that God is going to bless them because of the size of the church. Yet how many are truly faithful there, where in a small church, there may be more faithful and obedient believers?

We listen to the Christian groups that are popular thinking we will be blessed more for singing their songs, versus the small group or person that has little or no following. Are the mega worship groups doing it because of the large following that they have, yet the those who have no following do it simply because they love the Lord?

If you think that it has to do with quantity of a ministry, look at the two guys who were obedient, one got more than the other with his investment, but he was not praised more because he got more. If you read both verse 21 and 23 here in Matthew 25, the master said the same thing to both

of them, *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'* One was not praised more because he got more from his investment. Once again, they were praised for their obedience to the master, not the quantity of what they got.

Look also at what Jesus said about those who will enter the kingdom of Heaven.

† **Matthew 7:13-14** *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

It's not a matter of quantity, but a matter of faithfulness, regardless of the quantity, that's why few will enter by the narrow gate, because those who enter in the broad gate are those who are unfaithful to the Lord, and only faithful to themselves. Just like the one man who buried the talent in the ground that he was given. He was not being faithful to the Lord, he was being disobedient and the results was, *cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* **Matthew 25:30**

People go to church and are given a talent, so to speak, which is Jesus Christ, and many who hear the message just hide it and ignore it, and in the end they will not make it into heaven, because even though they heard the message, they were not obedient to obey the message of salvation.

Just remember that the Lord has given us all things to do for His Kingdom, and it starts with the message of salvation that He has given to us. Once we are obedient with that, He will give us more to do (*you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.*).

† **Luke 6:46** *But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?*

† **Luke 12:43** *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.*