

Matthew 25:25 (NLT)

I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.

Today's devotional is part of the parable about how the master had distributed money to his servants to take care of while he was away.

† **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.*

If you are familiar with the parable then you know that the first two doubled the money that was given to them, but the last one buried his money in the earth, therefore there was no gain in what he was given.

Now if you read the same story in the NKJV it calls money "talents" and when I heard that, it caused me to take this parable to a different level. You see, we so associate this with money and how we invest in the Kingdom, but what if you think about this as your talent (Not money, but what God has gifted you to do, your talent)?

Then I thought (as a musician) about all those gifted musicians out there. I believe that God has gifted each and every one with the talent that they have. But how many are like this one guy here that was given a talent (some money), yet he buried it in the earth

† *I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth*

Then I thought, wow these guys and girls are gifted with a wonderful gift of music, they can play, sing and write awesome songs, and what are they doing with it? They are investing (burying it) in the world (earth). In return they get praise from the world (earth), but when they are face to face with the Master, what will they have to show for what they did with what He has gifted them with, with their talents?

This can go beyond music; it can be sports or acting or even a job that someone is way beyond others at doing.

Note also in this parable that there are different degrees or amounts that each person is given, but the reward is not based upon how much or what they are given, but rather what they do with it. What if the guy who got one talent invested it and ended up with two talents? Wouldn't he had been praised for investing what he was given? Also if the guy who got five talents buried his and didn't do anything with it, wouldn't had been reprimanded for not investing what he was given?

With that in mind, you may not be a great musician or singer, or athlete, or actor/actress... But God has given us all talents that we are good at. The question is, what are you doing with your

God given talent? Are you investing it in the Kingdom, or wasting it away by doing nothing with it and investing it in the world to be seen by men?

† **2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)** *Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*

† **Matthew 25:26-30** *But his lord answered and said to him, '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. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*