

You Too Have Something That God Will Use

Article by Mary Bernice

We begin with Matthew 25:15-18, “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money” (KJV).

The translation for the Greek word for talent is *tálanon* – a silver talent, worth about 6,000 denarii (gold talents were worth about 30 times as much). A talent was not a coin but rather a *weight* (about 75 lbs, *NIVSB*) used as the basis of monetary exchange.

I also use this scripture text to address abilities that people have been given as well. A person will use their abilities in exchange for monetary wages. At one time, I felt that I had been given the least amount of talent because of my status in life. The person that was given five talents (weight in silver) had an advantage over me and my one talent. That servant was, therefore, in my eyes, preferred by the owner. I understand that each was given according to their several abilities, but somewhere I was interpreting it as me giving less than. Allow me to share with you what I found out.

Don’t get me wrong; I understood that the ability of the person with the five talents was considered. Yet, I felt bad that the guy with the 1 talent hid his perhaps because he felt he was slighted, that is not what the Word states, but I was interjecting me into this parable. So that one-talent servant was not being looked upon as “as good as” the others. I then started thinking that the entire process was appearing unfair. It showed a difference, maybe even some partiality, and it left me feeling that those great ministers and evangelists were superior in some way, according to our master. I believe that the current society breeds or embraces the division of the have and the have nots. There are classes of people that, although it is not openly communicated, there may be an undercurrent of it, even here in America. This is not God’s doing; it is due to a societal interpretation of what one sees. Not according to God’s love. So, I asked the Lord about it. I have found that if you think that something is not right in what you think God has done or is doing, He invites us to come boldly, and He admonishes through His word that “if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth to all liberally” (James 1:5).

Upon praying about it I saw that “there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11). Also that there is no partiality with God (2 Chronicles 19:17; Deuteronomy 10:17; Acts 10:34). So, why did I feel so bad for the 1-talent servant?

What the Lord pointed out to me was that each one got something. Again, according to his several abilities. Let us not stop there. Then we read:

Matthew 25:19-23: After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

The question brought to my attention was, what happened to the profit that the two servants made? The answer is that they got to keep it. What??? That is correct, they got to keep it. In Matthew 25:28 it states, “Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which **hath** ten talents.” So then, the servant with the five talents then had ten. And, the servant with the two talents, then had four. God is better than anything that we could hope or think. Now stay with me here, since these servants were faithful with their talents, what do you think they did with the now ten and four? It doesn’t say. But, it is highly likely that they would have continued to grow their profit. The servant with the ten could have even doubled that. The servant with the four, could have doubled the four. Then I saw this. The servant that started with the two talents could by then have more than the one had originally at five talents. The two-talent servant would have eight talents. Just following their pattern. There is no partiality here. The Word admonishes that each “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12b and 13. In other words, keep your eyes on God not on your multi-talented Christian sibling.

Now we look at the servant who was given the lone single talent. If that servant had worked with it, that servant would, according to my calculations, have grown to four talents. Which would be more than the original two-talent servant began with. I say that to say this, whatever God has given you, and He has given you a gifting, use it to His glory. Romans 11:29 states, “for the **gifts** (GREEK: *xárisma* (but not limited to) ‘spiritual

gifts.' *xarismata* (the *plural* form) literally means 'grace-endowments.' [Source: HELPS Word Studies] and calling of God are without **repentance** (GREEK: From a (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of *metamellomai*; irrevocable — without repentance, not to be repented of)" [Source: Strong's Concordance]. So then, what God has gifted you with, has not been taken away. If you feel that it has been taken away, go to your Father at the throne of grace and obtain mercy (Hebrews 4:16).

I heard Joel Osteen ministering one time. He was giving glory to God for the one talent that God had given him and how blessed he was with what God was able to do with it.

Whether using talent in the monetary sense or using talent as ability, you have something that God can use to His glory if you will apply yourself to working with it and keeping your focus on God.