



Daily Reflections

September 1, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability.

Then he went away.

Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five.

Likewise, the one who received two made another two.

But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

After a long time

the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them.

The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.

He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents.

See, I have made five more.'

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.

Since you were faithful in small matters,

I will give you great responsibilities.

Come, share your master's joy.'

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said,

'Master, you gave me two talents.
See, I have made two more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters,
I will give you great responsibilities.
Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said,
'Master, I knew you were a demanding person,
harvesting where you did not plant
and gathering where you did not scatter;
so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground.
Here it is back.'
His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant!
So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant
and gather where I did not scatter?
Should you not then have put my money in the bank
so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?
Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten.
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.
And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's very familiar Gospel parable poses a most important question: What are we doing with the gifts of time, talent and treasure which the Lord has entrusted to each of us based on His knowledge of our abilities? That question, Jesus tells us, will be posed to us at our Judgment. The Lord gives us the gift of life and time. He gives us all we need to produce good things for His Kingdom. We will have to give an accounting to Him when our time runs out in this life. What will you have to say to Him, to show Him?

Food for your Journey

"We should not artificially turn away from our [worries] by constantly listening to the radio, for example, or running to the movies, or some other

kind of busywork, but rather direct our cares to him who wills to bear and share all our sin and all our suffering and therefore all our cares. No diversion, but directing our cares. This is what to do. Jesus did not say: Look at the ostrich, how it buries its head in the desert sand and so tries to escape the fear of danger. No, he said: Look at the birds of the air, keep your eyes open, stand up straight and look to the heights where God makes known his grace and care."

--Helmut Thielicke, *Life Can Begin Again* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963), 143.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You know everything about me. You love me and trust me more than I can imagine. You put me in this life to show my love for You and to do Your good work with the time I have. Help me, Lord, to use my time and talent prudently. May I produce a harvest that is pleasing to You and gives You glory. Amen