

Where Does Our Ability Stop?

Mt.25:14-30

- Watchfulness
 - Virgins (1-13) – wait
 - Talents (14-30) – work
 - Virgins: be ready
 - Talents: what readiness means

15

- Talent: weight (125 Roman lbs.)
 - Bags of silver (lot of money)
 - 18:24, owed...
- No directions
- Variety: five, two, one
 - Ability determines expectations / responsibility

15-16

- *Immediately* – last word of 15 or first of 16?
 - NKJV: 15, immediately went on journey
 - ASV et al.: 16, straightway...traded

17

- *Gained only two* (started with smaller base)
- *Good ground:* 13:23

18

- Dug: 13:44
- Buried treasure means no loss...but no gain

19

- *Long time* (2 Pt.3)
- Settled accounts = *account-ability* (18:23f)

20

- 100% return. Deferred gratification

21

- Enter: either ¹share joy of Jesus, or
²joyous feast

22-23

- *Good, faithful...*
- Stewardship is important thing, not amount

24

- Anticipates blame? Excuses neglect...
 - Hard master; merciless
 - (Pharaoh; Rehoboam)
 - Lies! V. 15

25

- *Afraid ... hid ... broke even*
 - “Do no harm is the praise of a stone, not a man”

26

- **Wicked!**
 - Mt.7:17, bad tree...
 - Mt.13:49, judgment of wicked
- **Lazy!** Tries to make laziness look good; truth is exposed

27

- Bankers set up tables to lend or to exchange money.
 - Interest is the '*offspring*' of money

28-30

- Judgment.
 - Standard: use it or lose it
 - Being ready for judgment requires service

I. Lord Has Assigned Us Work To Do, 14

Mt.16:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- Judged according to works
- Pharisees already have their reward (Mt.6:1-5, *paid in full*)
- What about the Christian who never got involved in the Lord's work?

We are judged as individuals

Mt.20:...6

And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, Why have you been standing here idle all day?

- One thing worse than standing in market-place not working – in vineyard not working

Lk.10:30-37

And he said, He who showed mercy on him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do likewise.

- Knowledge is not enough

Acts 9:36

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

- Epitaph
- Did she merely attend classes and assemblies?

1 Co.15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- Children at beach write names in sand
- In winter . . . write in the snow
- In driveway . . . in concrete

2 Co.2:14-16

¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

- Fragrance of the gospel...

Gal.6:1-2

¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- Help restore brother in sin ... bear burdens of brother in need

Tit.2:14

...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

- Zeal is opposite of lukewarm

Tit.3:8

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

- Careful: give sustained thought to something, *concerned about*

Tit.3:14

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

- Learn to maintain: No such thing as a born hard-worker
- WE must learn to . . .
 - 1) **work**
 - 2) **continue**
 - Gal.6:9

Rev.2:5

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- Zeal, excitement after obedience
- Ephesus did well in rejecting false teachers, but not own faults...
 - Always easier to correct others than ourselves

Rev.3:2

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

- Not perfect... (complete)

I. Lord Has Assigned Us Work To Do, 14

II. Abilities Differ From
Person To Person, 14-18

14-18

- Ability: power, capability to perform a particular activity
- Not everyone has the same ability
- Everyone can do something

I. Lord Has Assigned Us Work To Do, 14

II. Abilities Differ From Person to Person...

III. Judgment According
To Our Ability, 19-30

18-19: one talent man hid talent...

- Never forget Judgment: give account of our works

20-23: identical blessings for
five and two talent men

- Each used what he had

24-25: one talent man –

1. Produced excuses, not work, 24
2. Blamed hard master, not himself, 24
3. Exaggerated master's expectations, 24
4. Afraid: might do something wrong, 24-25
5. Held his own instead of making profits;
broke even, 24-25

26-27: Master rejects every excuse

- Turns excuses against the slacker
- Pronounces him *wicked* and *lazy* – *he gave nothing*

28-29: lost everything

- Principle: use talent to increase
- Warning: ignore it and lose all
 - Muscle ... Music ... Mind ... Ministry

...household of Stephanas ... have
devoted themselves to the ministry
of the saints — 1 Co.16:15

30: Judgment

Not condemned because he had one talent

Typical of judgment parables. Mt.25

I. Lord Has Assigned Us Work To Do, 14

II. Abilities Differ From Person to Person...

III. Judgment According to our Ability...

IV. Where Does Our
Ability Stop?

“I don’t want to”

- Jn.14:15, love is the key

“Preferences”

- Ja.4:4

“Indifference”

- Ja.4:17