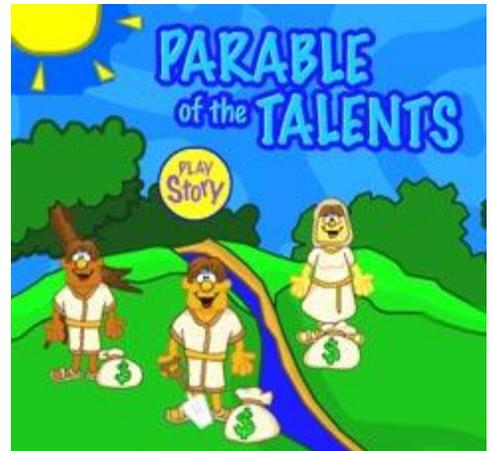


## Awesome Bible Stories CD's The Parable of the Talents

### Matthew 25:14-30

New Revised Standard Version

Here is the text of the narration heard in Awesome Bible Stories CD's "Parable of the Talents." The **underlined + bold text** in this script is where the program stops and presents your students with four variations to hear. **Option A** is the regular translation (NRSV version). **Options B, C, and D** are variations. One reason for offering optional narrations is to help unpack some of the vocabulary in the story. But it's also there to promote retention by having students hear the story a second or third time in a slightly different way. The narrated study notes help unpack some of the wording and concepts in the story and some have discussion questions.



### Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave **five talents**,

- (B) "bags of gold"
- (C) "he gave five ways to serve God"
- (D) "to one, he gave five tons of faith"



to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

(Study Notes: "About Talents," "Then he went away," about Kingdom of Heaven" )

<sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and invested it, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

(Study Notes: "Invested it," "Hid his master's money")

<sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, **good and trustworthy slave**;

- (B) "well done good and trustworthy servant."
- (C) "well done good and helpful servant."
- (D) "well done good and awesome servant."

(Study Note: "Well done good and faithful servant" ...about "rewards")

because you have been faithful in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; **enter into the joy of your master.**

- (B) "share my blessings"
- (C) "enjoy life with me"
- (D) "receive your reward"

<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, so I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, '**You wicked and lazy servant!**

- (B) "You bad and faithless worker!"
- (C) "You evil and untrustworthy dude!"
- (D) "You faithless freakazoid!"

**You think that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?**

- (B) "You think I don't deserve what I have?"
- (C) "You think I am unworthy of your trust?"
- (D) "You think all good things are someone else's doing?"

<sup>27</sup> At least you could have invested my money, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

<sup>29</sup> **For to all those who have, more will be given,**

- (B) "For those who help their master will receive help."
  - (C) "For all who increase my riches will share in them."
  - (D) "For they know how to increase good things."
- (Study Note: "to all those who have, more will be given" ...about "fairness")

...and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

<sup>30</sup> **As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness,**

- (B) "as for this faithless servant, throw him into the outer darkness."
- (C) "As for this untrustworthy servant, throw him into the outer darkness."
- (D) "As for this wimpy servant, throw him into the outer darkness."

**where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

- (B) "where there will be despair and fear of death."
  - (C) "where there will be sadness and anger."
  - (D) "where there will be no fun at all."
- (Study Notes: "Outer Darkness," "Weeping and gnashing of teeth")

**The Replay Scene button** takes you to the very beginning of the story again.

**Glitch Tip:** If you do not select a study note at the end of the story, the background music will mistakenly not stop for about 20 seconds. So, read a study note!

**A,B,C,D NOTE:** A = the standard text. B, C, and D are variations to help illuminate meaning or introduce an idea. One or two variations are just for fun. The selections are not random, ...meaning: each time you go through the story, option "b" always plays the same narration file for that underlined + bolded text it is associated with.)

## Study Note Images found in Awesome CD's Parable of the Talents

**then he went away**

Who is our master?  
Where has he gone to?  
Why did the master give one servant so much to take care of, and much less to the others?

**five talents** Kingdom

A "talent" is an amount equal to 3000 Hebrew coins (called "Shekels"). Five talents would be 15,000 Shekels, an enormous amount considering the average worker back then earned about 1/4 shekel each day. 5000 talents was worth 60,000 days of work (164 years of pay). Jesus is making the point that the master is **very very very** generous and trusting. What else could the talents be besides money? What does God give us to serve him?

**Kingdom of Heaven**

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

The Kingdom is where God's will is done. It is something that can be increased by faithful worship and good deeds. The Parable of the Talents describes three servants in the master's house who are each entrusted to increase the master's property, the Kingdom.

**hid his master's money**

Why did he hide the money? Was he afraid to lose it? Didn't he know what to do? Didn't he see what the other servants were doing with their shares? Didn't he care about his master's possessions?

A servant's job is to **take care** of and improve the master's property. The master gave him a responsibility which he chose not to be responsible with. Why do some people not want to see God's Kingdom increased?

**invested it**

This is one of the key ideas in this parable. When you "invest" money, you are using it to make more money. For example, the servant could have taken his master's money, bought a bakery, and made money selling bread.

**God gives us things we can "invest" that help grow his Kingdom.** Can you think of some of these things?

**well done, good and faithful servant**

This is the first lesson of this parable. When you are a good steward, working for your master and helping God's Kingdom increase, **you will be rewarded.**

What are the rewards of living in and helping to increase God's Kingdom?

This parable doesn't say (it only says what happens when you don't help), but what might they be?

**to all those who have, more will be given**

**At first look**, this doesn't seem fair. Why would the master give more to those who already have more?

The issue here is trust, not fairness. The master isn't giving away his property, he is putting it in the care of his servants.

God blesses those who care for the things of his Kingdom.

**Outer darkness** **Weep and gnashing of teeth**

The term "Outer Darkness" is only found in Matthew. "Outer" means outside the Master's Kingdom. "Darkness" means sin or lack of understanding.

The servant didn't understand or didn't care what and who he was working for, so he was sent away.

**He wasn't a good steward of his master's resources.** In fact, the darkness was already inside him when he decided to bury his master's property, rather than improve or increase it.

**Weeping and gnashing of teeth**

**"Gnashing"** means to grind one's teeth in anger or desperation. Those who reject Jesus' Kingdom, and do nothing to increase the Kingdom in the world will one day learn what a terrible mistake they have made.

This parable does not say what the master has in store for those who find themselves on the outside of the Kingdom. They are simply in anguish seeing what they have lost.

What do you think Jesus has in store for them?

QUESTIONS SEEN AFTER THE TALENTS GAME

In the parable, the master gives the servants talents to use.

**Name 3 or more gifts that Jesus has given you.**  
(Gifts can be skills, things you do well, personal qualities such as a happy spirit, things you are smart about, opportunities, as well as, money and property)

**Name 2 things you could do TODAY to "spend" your talents at home and make Jesus happy.**

**Close**

## Theological Note:

There have been many interpretations of "what Jesus meant" in this parable. Some believe he is talking about "salvation" and your ultimate destination, -what is it that separates the faithful from the unfaithful (investing your master's gifts), and how to "gain your reward" (in heaven). However, that would be salvation by works, not grace. And it would not be true to Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom found elsewhere in the New Testament, -as something all disciples should be working to help bring into fruition. This parable suggests that some are more faithful (harder working or risk taking) than others because they know what their master wants. Jesus doesn't want us to sit on our gifts, but use them to bring the Kingdom. And when you do that, you hear the master's approval and invitation to walk with him. However, when you fail to understand and fulfill your master's wishes (bury his gifts), it feels awful, and you feel distant from your master.

Like the lost sheep you just need to be found. Like the Prodigal Son, you are welcome back and given gifts once again.  
~Neil MacQueen, Sunday Software