

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

PARABLES OF JESUS SERIES (MATTHEW 25:14-30)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a parable?

- A parable is a short story that uses examples which everyone can understand and has a special meaning. Jesus did much of His teaching through parables to help us learn about God and how we are to live.

2. Who does the man going on a journey represent?

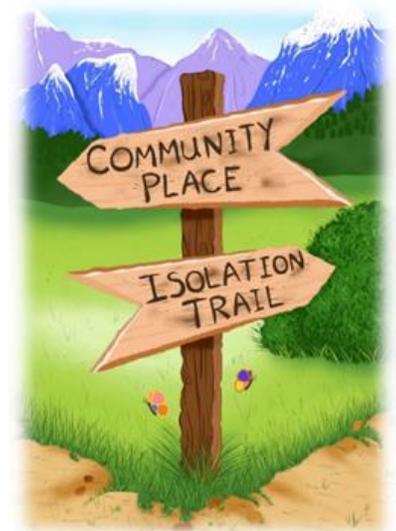
- The man going on a journey represents Jesus. Jesus was talking about after being crucified on the cross and rising three days later, He would then go be with God in heaven.

3. Who do the servants represent in the parable?

- The servants are people who believe in Jesus; they represent Christians.

4. What do the talents, or bags of gold, represent in the parable?

- The bags of gold represent Jesus' teachings that He left with us as believers.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

5. What are some of the teachings that Jesus left us? Where do we find His teachings?

- There are many teachings Jesus left with us. One is sharing the Good News with others. He also teaches us about forgiving others, even when they do us wrong. He wants us to love others as He loves us. We are to take care of those who are hurting and sick, and the poor. We need to care for His Church and live out our faith so others will see and come to know about Jesus.
- As believers, we are also given spiritual gifts. We should be good stewards of these gifts and find ways to develop them and use our gifts to bring God glory.
- We find all of Jesus' teachings in the Bible!

6. Who do think was right, the two servants who made the man more money, or the third servant who hid the money in the ground?

- The first two servants were wise with the man's money and worked to make even more money for him. But the third servant chose to hide the man's money in the ground.
- As believers we should use the teachings that Jesus left us in our daily lives, and not hide them away. We need to love others, forgive people even when they do us wrong, and share about Jesus with others. We can use our spiritual gifts to grow His Church, and joyfully live out our faith.

7. Why was the man happy with the first two servants?

- The man was happy with the first two servants because they earned more money for him. The first servant who was given five bags of gold earned five more. The second servant was given two bags of gold and earned two more.
- What does this mean for us? Remember that the man in the parable represents Jesus, and the servants represent us as believers. Just because Jesus is not here on earth right now doesn't mean that we should ignore the valuable teachings and spiritual gifts He has given us.
- In **John chapter 14, verse 3** Jesus tells His disciples, *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

- Jesus has promised to come back some day. When He does, He will want to know what we've done with what we've been given. Were we good stewards of His teachings and our spiritual gifts?
- If we were, we will be rewarded just as the two servants were rewarded in Jesus' story.

8. Why was the man upset with the third servant?

- The man was upset with the third servant because he did not earn any money. Instead, the servant was afraid of the man and chose to hide the money he was given in the ground.
- What does this mean for us? The third servant is like the Christian who has been given Jesus' valuable teachings and spiritual gifts and does not use them to glorify God. This person hides away their gifts and Jesus' teachings and does not live them out in his/her life. Remember, just because Jesus is not here on earth right now doesn't mean that we should ignore the valuable treasures He has given us.
- One day, Jesus will return. Those who are faithful with what they're entrusted with, big and small, will be trusted with more. These faithful believers will share in the Master's joy!
- However, those who are not faithful with what they have been given may face the harsh reality of being called a wicked and lazy servant. Worst of all, they may not share in the joy of the Master's presence when He returns.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Are you more like the servants who earned more money for the Master, or are you like the servant who hid the money in the ground?

- It's a tough question to ask ourselves but it is also necessary. We need to be good stewards of Jesus' teachings and of the spiritual gifts He has given us. We should be ready for when Jesus comes again and be prepared to give an account of how we lived our lives for Him.

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS CONTINUED

2. What can you do to be more like the servants who were wise with the Master's money?

- Maybe your housemate said something mean to you. You can pray for God to help you forgive him. Or perhaps someone at work is struggling with a personal issue. You can be a friend and listen to her and pray together. This can be a way to show that you love her as God loves her. You can also joyfully share Jesus with others in your life!
- You can also study God's Word, pray daily, go to church and Friendship group, surround yourself with other believers and in Christian community.

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