

## The Parable of the Talents and Minas

The Parable of the Talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**) and the Parable of the Minas (**Luke 19:11-27**), though generally similar, but differences include the inclusion of the motif of a king obtaining a kingdom and the entrusting of ten servants with ten minas.

The Parable of the Talents accentuates the servants' abilities. Although the 5-talent servant and the 2-talent servant had unequal abilities, they were equally pleasing to their master. How does this truth apply to us today? No matter what our level of ability, everyone has the same potential to please Yahuah.

The Parable of the Minas highlights the servants' faithfulness. They all received the same amount, but the one who produced 10 minas was the most faithful. The one who produced 5 minas was also faithful, but not as much as the other servant. Everyone decides how faithfully they will serve Yahuah.

Both Parables stress that we must be faithful with what Yahuah has given us, and by doing so, we will therefore assume more responsibility in His Kingdom and a deeper relationship with our Master and King.

These parables are rather sobering in that they speak not only of the rewards of being faithful, but we see the severe consequences of not being faithful with what Yahuah has given us.

We have been given so much. We have been given insight into the glorious word of Yahuah. We have been placed "in Ha Mashiach" and therefore are Baruk (Blessed) with "every spiritual Barakah (Blessing) in the heavenly places" (**Ephesians 1:3**).

We have been given a call and a set of gifts that are unique on the earth. He has equipped us to do His work through the Ruach HaQodesh, the power of prayer, and the fact that Yahusha HaMashiach is now seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us (**Hebrews 7:24-25**).

We have been given finances, health, time, and gifts that He desires for us to use for His purposes. And yet we often continue to serve our own interests and personal agenda. Too many do nothing or just the minimum when it comes to the purposes of the Kingdom of Alahym.

There are many truths found in these parables. But, because they were faithful and multiplied what had been given to them, the Master says, “Well, done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things; **enter into the joy of your master.**”

In a world starving for true joy, Yahusha tells us that being faithful is the road we must walk to obtain true joy. In our quest to find happiness and contentment, we miss what Yahusha had to say about true joy. When we are faithful with what Yahuah has given us, we will enter into His joy! Yes, being faithful will mean sacrifice, it will mean hard work, but the result? Joy, both here on this earth, and in the age to come!

*Watch therefore*, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. – **Matthew 25:13**

The foundation of the parable of the talents really begins with this verse. That's why this parable is one of preparedness and execution because eventually, Yahusha is coming back. In this parable, the man traveling is Yahusha and we are the servants. With that being understood, let's look closer so we can find those top takeaways from this parable of the talents.

Consider what Yahusha said in **Matthew 25:14-15**. A man traveled to a far country, he called his own servants, and delivered his goods (Talents) to them, and immediately went on a journey.

Yahusha came to earth, called his disciples, entrusted them with the message of the Besorah (gospel), and departed when he ascended into the Shamym. Just as after a long time the Master of those servants came and settled accounts with them, Yahusha will do the same with us.

This verse is a reminder that not only did Yahusha leave this earth, but one day he will come back and we will have to give account. This is one of the

top takeaways. The parable of the talents is a reminder that Yahusha is coming back and we have some work to do.

## **A Talent/Minas**

Have you ever wondered what a talent is in Scripture? I once believed it was a unique skill or ability. A Talent is the strong's 5007 tálanton – A talent was not a coin but rather a weight of gold & silver coins used as the basis of monetary exchange, equaling 20 years of wages. Some believe a talent to be worth roughly \$1 million today.

A Mina or Minah (also called “pounds”) was a basic standard of weight among the ancient Hebrews and was equivalent to 100 days of wages.

We are tempted to feel sorry for the servant who received only one talent, but in reality he received as much as a million dollars from the master and buried it in his backyard. Just as the master expected his servants to do more than passively preserve what has been entrusted to them, so he expects us to generate a return by using our talents towards productive ends. The servants were given enough to produce more – it is the same with the gifts Alahym has given us.

Shaul (Paul) writes in **Ephesians 2:10**: For we are Alahym's handiwork, created in Yahusha HaMashiach to do good works, which Alahym prepared in advance for us to do. We seldom associate this verse with our work, but we should. With that being said, I want you to ponder these 4 questions.

### **1. What Has Alahym Given You?**

One of the phrases that leaps off the page to me when I read this story is “**to each according to his own ability.**” This leads me to ask the simple question: what has Alahym given you to do? What is your role and expectation in the kingdom?

Alahym has given you a responsibility, according to your ability. So often we leave the work of declaring the message of the Besorah (gospel) and making disciples of those who are “called” to do it. Well, the reality is that this calling is for all of us who believe. Some may have more responsibility if Alahym has called them to do that in a full-time capacity, but we are all called to this purpose. These are the goods Alahym has delivered to you and me.

Whether Alahym has positioned you to do this full-time or not, please recognize what Alahym has given you. The message of the Besorah (gospel/ i.e...the goods) is alive in you if you know Yahusha as your savior.

## **2. What Are You Doing with Your Talent?**

Now that you are aware of the responsibility, because it applies to everyone, what are you doing with it? Remember, one had 5 talents, one had 2 talents, and one had 1 talent. I want you to shift your mindset for a moment and understand something. What is the primary focus of your talent?

Some people’s talent is to only focus on studying, Preaching/teaching the scripture, and building disciples (maybe = 5 talents). Other people's talents may be reaching out to those around their home, sharing the message and volunteering to serve in their Assembly (maybe = 2 talents or 1 talent).

No matter the Talent he has given you, do not bury, or hide the talent and be considered a wicked and lazy servant that knows that the Master reaps where he has not sown, and gathers where he has not scattered seed. By hiding your light under a bushel, you keep your abilities or good qualities hidden from other people so they can not see the good work your heavenly Father is doing through you, thus he does not receive the glory, the esteem that is due to him.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that

they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Shamym (Heaven). **Matthew 5:14-16**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.  
**James 1:17**

### **3. Are You Ready for His Return?**

One of the top takeaways from this parable of the talents is the suddenness of the master's return. This takes us back to **Matthew 25:19** –After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. There are two points of emphasis here: 1) the Master (Yahusha) will return one day. 2) we will give an account. The master didn't announce his coming, he just came back after a long time. It will be the same with Yahusha. After a while, he will come back as a thief in the night.

For you are fully aware that the Day of the Master will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **1 Thessalonians 5:2**

The question is, are you ready for his return? Another way of looking at it is—what would you want to be doing when Yahusha returns? Hopefully, the answer is to be taking what he has entrusted you with and sharing it with those around you, growing his assets. After all, this is the only way possible he can get a return on what he has entrusted you with.

### **4. What Will Yahusha Say to You on That Day?**

When you read the whole story, there were two different responses given to the servants. Two (2) of them heard "well done" and one (1) heard "you wicked, lazy servant." This is why it is so important to focus on *what you do* with the talent Alahym has given you the responsibility over now.

The irony of this situation is that the man with the smallest amount of talent and responsibility and was the one who was afraid, was also the one who was declared wicked and lazy. This tells me that the measure of evaluation is not how much Alahym has given you but, what are you doing with it. In other words, there are no excuses. Being afraid and doing nothing is considered wickedness.

I know this is challenging, but it is part of the calling and what Yahusha has entrusted us to do. What Alahym has given you is real and valuable and you have a responsibility to share it, even if all you have been given is 1 talent. That can make a huge difference in the kingdom of Alahym, and it can make a difference in what Yahusha will say to you on that day.

For unto everyone that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has. 30 And shall cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Matthew 25:29-30**

Whatever Alahym has tasked you to do, do it with all your might, being the best you can be and doing all you can for the kingdom of Alahym. It will all be worth it.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of Yahuah, because you know that your labor in Alahym is not in vain. – **1 Corinthians 15:58**

In the book of Genesis we see that Alahym placed Adam in the garden to work it and take care of it. We were made to work and take care of things as well. As believers we have a mission that our master expects us to accomplish in the here and now.

The Parable of the Talents teaches us what we are supposed to do while we await the return of our King. We are to work, using our talents to glorify Alahym, serve the common good, and further Yahuah's kingdom. Scriptural success is working diligently in the here and now using all the talents

Yahuah has given us to produce the return expected by the Master. It also teaches us that Yahuah always gives us everything we need to accomplish what he has called us to do.

Now the word of Yahuah came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “oh, Yahuah Alahym! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” But Yahuah said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares Yahuah. **Jeremiah 1:4-19**

There are different kinds of service, but the same Master. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same Alahym at work. **1 Corinthians 12:5-6**

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of Yahuah is. **Ephesians 5:15-17**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of Yahuah’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of Alahym. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength Alahym provides, so that in all things Yahuah may be praised through Yahusha HaMashaich. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amein. **1 Peter 4:10-11**

The Parable of the Talents teaches that we are not all created equal (Diversity is woven into the fabric of creation). The most overlooked part of this parable is the second half of verse 15: the master gives to each servant talents, “...**each according to his ability.**” The master understood that the one-talent servant was not capable of producing as much as the five-talent servant. We want to protest this as unfair. Yet we know this is true from our own experience.

Even though we’re not created equal in regard to the talents we’re given, there is equality found in the Parable of the Talents. It comes from the fact that it takes just as much work for the five-talent servant to produce five more talents as it does the two-talent servant to produce two more talents.

This is why the reward given by the master is the same. The master measures success according to our effort.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Mashiach, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **Romans 12:4-8**

The Parable of the Talents teaches us that we work for our Master, not our own selfish purposes. The talents that are given to the servants are not their own. The increase they earn with the capital is not theirs to keep. The servants are only stewards of the master's investment, and it is the quality of their stewardship that the master seeks to measure.

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy servant. You were trustworthy over a little, I shall set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **Matthew 25:23** Here we see the master welcomes the servant into closer connection to himself, managing more of his kingdom and walking in joyful relationship with him. The unfaithful steward in this parable didn't really waste the master's Assets – he wasted an opportunity. As a result, he was judged wicked and lazy. We are responsible for what we do with what we have been given, and one day we will be held responsible. What we hear from the Master on that day is up to us.

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. **1 Corinthians 4:2**

For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. **45** Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household, to give the others their food at the proper time? **46** Baruk (Blessed) is that servant whose



master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. **Matthew 25:44-47, Luke 12:42-48**

Baruk (Blessed) are those servants whom the master finds on watch when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve and will have them recline at the table, and he himself will come and wait on them. **Luke 12:37**