

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 14, 2024

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 113. “Parable of the Talents” – Matthew 25:14-30

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Jesus continues the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 25, teaching 3 parables that warn us to watch while we wait with expectant hope for His second coming.

- I. The Three Parables – Matthew 25
 - A. Girls and Their Lamps, Talents, Sheep and Goats
 - B. Points in Common
 1. In each case, the return of the Lord is sudden and unexpected.
 - a. False signs: false christs, wars, famine, persecution, apostacy, false prophets/teachers
 - b. When He actually comes, it will be sudden and unexpected with no sign given
 2. In each case the Lord’s return results in a division between two groups of people
 - a. Judgment means “division”
 - b. Gk: *krisis* – an event that requires turning one way or the other
 3. In each case the people who are lost are utterly surprised at their rejection by Christ
 - a. These all think they are saved
 - b. These are all part of the visible church
- II. Slaves and Stewards – vs. 14-30
 - A. Talents
 1. Weight/Measurement or Amount regarding precious medals
 2. Varies based on material and location
 - a. General range was 28 to 36 kg, or 60 to 80 pounds
 - b. Believed to be equivalent to 3000 Hebrews shekels
 - c. It is estimated that one talent would have been worth between \$1-2 million
 - B. Ability
 1. Faith – Rom. 12:4-6
 2. Gifts and Opportunity – something with which to please and serve God – 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 11
 3. Love and Diligence – 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Peter 1:5-11
 - C. Accomplishments (vs. 16-18)
 1. Five made five more
 2. Two made two more
 3. One buried it and gained nothing

D. Approbation and Admonition (vs. 19-28, 30)

1. Well done faithful servant
 - a. Few/Many
 - b. Enter the joy of your Master
2. Wicked, lazy slave
 - a. Fear and resentment
 - b. I didn't lose anything (I did nothing) – James 2:14-17; 4:17
 - c. Talent taken away and given to the one with 10
 - d. Servant thrown out into outer darkness (judgment)

E. Abundance (vs. 29)

1. Perissos – abound, over and above, more than enough, surplus
2. “Exceedingly Abundant” – Eph. 3:20
3. Capacity – John 10:10
4. Accountability – Luke 12:48

III. Application

- A. We are Stewards
- B. He is Coming Back
- C. Work until He Does
- D. What if We Fail? – 2 Tim. 2:13 (Wesley/Whitefield)

Cross References

Romans 12:4-6

4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another, 6 but having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: whether prophecy, in agreement with the faith;

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of workings, but the same God who works everything in everyone. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable.

1 Corinthians 12:11

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Peter 1:5-11

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For in whom these things are not present, that one is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; for in doing these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

James 2:14-17

14 What use is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead by itself.

James 4:17

17 Therefore, to one who knows to do the right thing and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Ephesians 3:20

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or understand, according to the power that works within us,

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Luke 12:48

48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a beating, will receive but a few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required, and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

11 It is a trustworthy saying: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we will deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.