

Multiplying Our Impact

Presented by Pastor Scott Walters on 11/15/20

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Wauunakee, WI

My dad was a sales representative for a food brokerage firm out of Milwaukee: out of town 2 to 3 nights per week.

My mom had open heart surgery when I was four, and was never physically active.

Not too many years following mom's surgery, I was given more responsibilities around the house. (My brother was off to college).

e.g. mowing, painting the picket fence vacuuming the house; occasionally I even cooked; hamburger incident.

My immediate reaction was that I had no talent for cooking or making dinners, which I found out wasn't necessarily true; I was just distracted.

Today's parable is about talents; but a different kind of talent.

In today's scripture, 'talent' doesn't mean one's special ability; it is a huge sum of money.

1 talent = 6,000 drachmas (>15 years wages for a laborer; 32.3 kilograms of silver).

I used to imagine a sack full of coins being exchanged.

A talent was heavy; 71 lbs.; maybe with a handle.

The Parable of the Talents isn't really about money.

Even more important: It is about trust.

The Master is about to leave town and gives a chunk of his fortune to each of the 3 servants.

Trust: No limitations; no conditions on the money given.

Master returns: 2 of the servants have made investments & doubled
3rd servant played it safe; returned exactly what he received.

Think: Hiding the money in a mattress.

Becomes clear: 3rd Servant was afraid of the Master

Afraid of his own lack of ability; afraid of Master's reaction.

What if the 1st two servants lost the money they invested? Angry?

I think the Master would have accepted them.

What the Master is excited about is not the profits; but their faithfulness and trust in Him.

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“Well done, good and trustworthy servants.”

The Master would have been happy with anything – even interest from placing the money in a savings account.

IT'S ABOUT TRUST.

The 3rd Servant calls the Master harsh and angry.

That's how some think about God.

They cannot commit to God as they don't know how much God loves them.

You cannot commit yourselves to someone you don't trust.

The 3rd servant 'thinks' he knows the Master, but has it all wrong.

Here's a guy who was afraid of the Master; and his fears in a sense are well-founded. (he received a punishment at the end).

But remember, this is a parable: a story with a point; not historical

Jesus is telling his followers what is expected of them.

POINT: We are to use the gifts we've been given for the work of God's Kingdom.

Friends, we have been left in charge of great wealth; it is not ours

We are to trust that God will care for us.

If we know that God is faithful, then we'll reach out
and share what we have.

In the parable, the fearful servant gets exactly what he's afraid of.

Jesus Christ never played it safe.

The other 2 Servants saw the generosity of the Master; they were honored by His trust.

They realize the Master is taking a risk; they respond by a willingness to take risks of their own.

This parable is about the people of God:

It is easy today to want to play it safe.

The Church & its resources are not ours; but has been entrusted to us by the Master to spread Good News of Jesus and to alleviate suffering.

Today, we still are entrusted with great blessings;

Burying our Master's wealth is NOT okay.

Sometimes we don't reach out because we worry we might fail (We might fail; we WILL fail).

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It is about trusting in God. God trusts us.

It's about trusting the Lord and a willingness to take some risks.

By the way, mom still asked me to make lunch or dinner once
in a while.

It's about sharing. It's about trusting that in all things God will be there and that we will be loved – even if you fail.

It's about hearing, “Well done, good and faithful and trustworthy servants.”