



VANCOUVER

Mid-Week Bulletin

Pastor's Email Note 5

January 31, 2018

## *On Investing for Eternity. Be a Wise Investor/Manager of God's Resources*

Matthew 25:14-30

In the Parable of the talents, there was the master who summoned the three slaves and entrusted his property to them. They were given five, three and two talents each according to their ability.

What is a slave?

The word *doulos* (δουλος) comes from *deo* (δεο) which means "to bind." the chief idea here is that the slave is bound to his master. In the Roman times when Jesus lived, a slave was bound to his master, dependent fully on his master and was expected total obedience otherwise they face punishment.

When Jesus spoke his parables he wanted his audience to identify with the character of his parables, so if we are to identify with the character of this parable we are all slaves to Christ. Even Paul himself calls himself as slave to Christ "

We are slaves and have one master. We are completely and constantly to be available to that one master, and we have one consuming reason to live and that was to please that one master.

In Acts 17:24, we are constantly reminded that the God, who made the world and everything in it, is the Lord of heaven and earth.

Though the emphasis here is on money but it could be said that talents represent more in stewardship.

It could be our skills, abilities, time, energy, resources.

Human logic will tell us that the 3rd slave with the one talent was short changed.

How about us—how many times have we looked at other people's house and wonder why our house is smaller?

How many times have we looked at other people's fancy cars and wonder why you continue to drive this more than 10 year old car that always breaks down on the roads?

How many times have we declined invitations to take responsibilities because we think other people are more talented, have more resources and more beautiful than we are.

How many times have we thought that life was unjust? Are we questioning the sovereignty of our master who is the giver of all?

The first two slaves went right away; they did not delay in their obedience to their master. For they don't know when will their master will be coming. We were being reminded that Jesus Christ can come anytime soon or our Father God can take us to Himself anytime.

The third slave buried his talent for he was scared. Scared of what? Or do we pass on the blame of the miscarriages of ourselves to God. In what ways do you bury the talent that God has given you? Do we think He will forsake us? How big is your God compared to your circumstance? What is our perception of our God? We were also reminded in the sermon that our lives are so short, we needed to be faithful and to bear fruits on whatever God entrusted to us as slaves.

## *On Investing for Eternity. Be a Wise Investor/Manager of God's Resources (continued)*

Be productive where the Lord has given us ability and opportunity.

For we will all stand before God on Judgement Day. Will we be like the slave who had received the five talents and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents. (Matthew 25:21) *"And his master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. "*

### **Review (Knowledge):**

Please take a few minutes to read the summary above. What is the highlight of last Sunday's sermon for you and why?

### **Sharing/Discussion (Practical Wisdom):**

1. Based on our study of the Parable of the Talents, we may sometimes feel that the 3rd slave who was given the one talent was short changed. Have you ever thought that life was unjust? Have you ever questioned the sovereignty of our master who is the giver of all?
2. Consider this— how many times have you looked at other people's house and wonder why your house is smaller? How many times have you looked at other people's fancy cars and wonder why you continue to drive this more than 10 year old car that always breaks down on the roads? How many times have you declined invitations to take responsibilities because you think other people are more talented, have more resources and more beautiful than you are?
3. The third slave buried his talent for he was scared. In what ways do you bury the talent that God has given you? Do we think He will forsake you? How big is your God compared to your circumstance? What is your perception of our God?

**Prayer** (Take time to pray for one another.)