

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 29

Introduction: The last time we were together in our study of the Olivet Discourse we were looking at the Parable of the Talents. Jesus taught this parable to show those who will survive the Great Tribulation the need to be prepared for His return and establishment of His Kingdom.

The parable opens with a man who went on a long journey and before he departed he called his servants and gave to each servant talents according to their ability to manage them.

Notice Matthew 25:14-15

The servants had the responsibility to invest what had been entrusted to them. He gave 5 talents to one man, 2 to another, and 1 to another. The man who received 5 invested his and made 5 more. The man who received 2 invested his and made 2 more. The man who received 1 buried his in the ground and hid his master's money.

Notice Matthew 25:16-18

Now the picture here is very sobering. The master can be seen as Jesus. He has taken a long journey back to His Father's house and as time goes on He has been handing out "talents". The talents can be seen as spiritual Truth. They are not spiritual gifts and we know this because spiritual gifts are only given to believers. The man who received 1 is not a believer and we know this because he was cast into outer darkness and God would never cast any of His children into hell.

The "talents" are spiritual Truth which we all receive when we sit under the teaching of God's Word. Some receive 5 "talents", someone in the same service may only receive 2 and someone else 1 "talent". The unsaved man may receive only 1 but the believer may receive 5 from the same message. The spiritual Truth may be something which God brings to your attention which needs to be changed in your life or it may be a position God is calling you to step into. It may be God urging you to be more faithful or it may be God urging you to go share the Gospel with your neighbor. To the unsaved his "talent" may be the Truth that his or her time is running out and they need to repent and come to Christ.

We need to know that those "talents" are extremely valuable. The Truth which God drops in your basket is God speaking to you. There are people in this world who do not have the opportunity to sit under the teaching of God's Word. We are so blessed!!! But know this, the Truth which is entrusted to us we are to invest.

James 1:22

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Whatever the "talents" are which God has given to us we all need to be reminded there will be a day of reckoning.

Notice Matthew 25:19

Every "talent" which God has dropped into your spiritual basket you will be held accountable for.

Now there are 2 options as we pass through this world pertaining to the "talents" which have been entrusted to us:

1. We can invest them.
2. We can bury them.

1. The Blessings of Investing Spiritual Truth

Let me show you another parable which our Lord told His disciples earlier.

Luke 19:11-13

¹¹ And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

¹² He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

¹³ And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

We need to consider the definition of the word "occupy". Here is how it is defined by Blue Letter Bible, "**to carry on the business of a banker or a trader**". Here we can clearly see that while we wait for the return of the Lord we are to be "carrying out the business of a banker or a trader". That means we are to be investing the spiritual Truth God has entrusted to us.

Now let us get back to Matthew.

Notice Matthew 25:20-23

There are many points here to consider from these two servants.

a. There was no shame as they were called to the reckoning.

Matthew 25:20

²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: **behold**, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:22

²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: **behold**, I have gained two other talents beside them.

The word "BEHOLD" here is so important. From the word we can see that there was an eagerness to come before their lord and to share with him how they had invested what had been entrusted to them and both had doubled what they had received. They were excited for the day of reckoning. They longed to see their lord and they longed to share with him the interest they had made on his money.

Application:

Let me ask you all a question, "Do you look forward to the Judgment Seat of Christ?" Maybe you have not really thought too much about it. You have heard me teach that we will not be judged for our sin on that day and therefore you have not given much thought to the "Day of Reckoning". Let just say you may want to look a little closer at what the Bible says about that day.

2 Corinthians 5:8-11

⁸ *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

⁹ *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

¹¹ **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord**, *we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

Here in these verses Paul tells us that "**knowing the terror of the Lord**" he was focused upon serving and investing that which had been entrusted to him. I need to show you the meaning of the word "terror" here. Here is the definition from Vines Expository Dictionary.

"A reverential fear of God, as a controlling motive of the life, in matters spiritual and moral, not a mere "fear" of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him, a "fear" which banishes the terror that shrinks from His presence, and which influences the disposition and attitude of one whose circumstances are guided by trust in God, through the indwelling Spirit of God."

Now let me tell you what Paul is saying here, "We do all we can with all that has been entrusted to us because we have this reverential fear of the Lord. This reverence is so strong it controls our lives in every area. We will one day stand before Him and we do not want to be found displeasing to Him. He has done so much for us, namely He sacrificed

His Son so that we could be forgiven of all our sin. He now has submerged us in a sea of grace that is far greater than all of our sin. Therefore we do not want to displease Him. When the Day of Reckoning comes we will not need to shrink in fear in His presence because we have served with every ounce of our being and invested all He has entrusted to us. We long for the Day of Reckoning."

Notice what John writes to his readers.

1 John 2:28

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Now allow me to take this thought further because you need to know the Day of Reckoning is not to be taken lightly. It is my desire to teach you to invest the "talents" which God has given you so that you will not shrink from His presence on the Day of Reckoning.

In order to invest for God the way He desires it means that we are going to need to live a life of sacrifice. There are going to be things which our flesh desires to do but we are going to need to say "NO" to personal desires in order to invest that which God has entrusted to us. This does not mean we cannot enjoy the things of this world. It does not mean we cannot have hobbies. I believe we need hobbies but there must be a balance. There cannot be anything permitted to exist within our lives that takes us out of the will of God. In other words there cannot be anything permitted within our lives that controls us and steps into the place of the Holy Spirit.

Remember the book of Ester?

Esther 3:1

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

The king and his kingdom represent the believer. Haman represents the sin nature within us. Mordecai represents the Holy Spirit. Here in this chapter the king gives the place of authority to Haman which is a picture of the believer who is controlled by the flesh.

Esther 3:8-10

⁸ And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them.

⁹ If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries.

¹⁰ And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

Now let us notice the result.

Esther 3:15

¹⁵ The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

The city was perplexed because Haman had the authority. This is a picture of the believer who is controlled by the flesh. His or her life is out of order. It is not until the Holy Spirit has the seat of authority in our lives that we will find peace. Notice the change in Shushan after Haman was hanged and Mordecai was given the seat of authority.

Esther 9:22

²² As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

The point I am making is we must be careful not to be controlled by the sin nature because life will get away from us and you will then stand before the Lord empty handed because you were not willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2. Day of reckoning of these two servants.

Notice Matthew 25:21, 23

These are the very words we desire to hear when we one day stand before the Lord.

Conclusion: Next week we will focus upon "The Emptiness of Burying Spiritual Truth". But before I close there is something else which I need to point out to you. In the church today there is so much potential if believers would just step up and allow the Holy Spirit to control them so that they could be used. But there is a major problem. Too many believers have never been emptied. I was reminded of a verse that pictures what I want you to see.

Jeremiah 48:11

¹¹ Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Here God is speaking about Moab and how the people of Moab had never been emptied which was a reference to making wine. They would pour the wine from skin to skin to remove the dregs. Moab had never been tried or tested. Moab had no "flavor" because they were never emptied.

I am reminded of how we as believers can be "full of ourselves" and when we are the Holy Spirit gets pushed aside. When that happens our "scent is not changed" in other words there is not a sweet smelling savor rising to God from our sacrifice because there is no sacrifice.