

Book Study – Matthew 25:1 – 25:46

Parable of the Ten Virgins – Parable of the Talents – The Sheep and the Goats



Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. How do you react when you are made to wait?
2. Why is the belief in heaven and hell waning, while the belief in reincarnation becomes more popular?



Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

3. How did the wise virgins respond when asked to help the ones who weren't prepared? ([25:9](#))
4. How did the bridegroom respond when some virgins wanted to come to the wedding late? ([25:12](#))
5. With what warning did Jesus conclude this parable? Why? ([25:13](#))
6. How did the master react to the report of the first servant? ([25:20-21](#))
7. What was the response to the report of the second servant? ([25:22-23](#))
8. How did the master respond to the third servant's explanation? ([25:26-27](#))
9. What will Jesus say to those on His right? ([25:34-36](#))
10. How will the "sheep" respond to Jesus' words on that day? ([25:37-39](#))
11. What criterion will Christ use to judge people? ([25:40](#))



Sort, Organize, Gain Understanding...

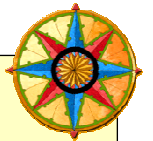
13. In what ways do you tend to count on more mature Christians or try to ride their coattails?
14. What responsibility does each Christian have before God?
15. With what talents or resources has God entrusted you?
16. What discourages you from investing your talents?
17. How would your behavior change if you treated each person in your life as if he or she were Jesus?
18. What resources do you have available to you for serving the needs of others?



Application for the Journey...

19. What spiritual preparation do you need to make today in order to "keep watch"?
20. What resource do you need to commit to Christ's use at this time in your life?
21. What act of kindness or mercy toward the needy can you do today?

A prayer for your journey... "Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life." -Amen



Direction Finder...

Create a casual list of your gifts and talents...

Write It Down...

a quick list of resources...

Write It Down...

I will...

GIFTS AND TALENTS

Definitions, Differences and Importance

GIFTS

“In a recent survey we asked the question, ‘What is your spiritual gift?’ Of the 72 adults responding only 15 answered with what could be considered a valid name for a spiritual gift. Twenty-two gave no answer at all. But most amazing of all were the 28 who listed as their gift a term the Bible did not list — many listed fruit of the Spirit. (Patience, Joy, Peace,

There are 21 gifts listed in the New Testament. However, most Bible scholars will agree on a list of only 18.

Because of the closeness of the definitions and characteristics of some gifts, it is felt that the Scriptures use synonyms in some cases. The following lists the gifts and Scripture references and suggests a simplified classification.”

1. MIRACULOUS GIFTS

Apostle	I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11
Tongues	I Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30
Interpretation	I Corinthians 12:10, 30
Miracles	I Corinthians 12:10, 28
Healing	I Corinthians 12:9, 28

2. ENABLING GIFTS

Faith	I Corinthians 12:9
Discernment	I Corinthians 12:10
Wisdom	I Corinthians 12:8
Knowledge	I Corinthians 12:8

3. TEAM GIFTS

Evangelism	Ephesians 4:11
Prophecy	Romans 12:6; Ephesians 4:11, I Corinthians 12:10, 28
Teaching	Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28
Exhortation	Romans 12:8
Pastor-Teacher	Ephesians 4:11
Showing Mercy	Romans 12:8
Serving	Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28
Giving	Romans 12:8
Administrations	Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 12:28

*from *Team Ministry – A Guide to Spiritual Gifts and Lay Involvement*. Larry Gilbert

TALENTS

Talent. The heaviest unit of weight in the Hebrew system. The talent was used to weigh gold (2 Sam 12:30), silver (1 Kings 20:39), iron (1 Chron 29:7), bronze (Ex 38:29), and many other commodities. **The common talent weighed about 3000 shekels (125 pounds)** or the full weight that a man could carry (2 Kings 5:23). In Rev 16:21 giant heavenly hailstones are described as heavy as a talent.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

OXFORD DICTIONARY

Talent, n.

- 1 a special aptitude or faculty (a talent for music; has real talent).
- 2 high mental ability.
- 3 a person or persons of talent (is a real talent; plenty of local talent).
- 4 **an ancient weight and unit of currency**, esp. among the Greeks.

WORDNET DICTIONARY

Noun *Talent* has 2 senses

- **talent**(n = noun.cognition) endowment, gift, natural endowment - **natural abilities or qualities**; is a kind of natural ability
has particulars: bent, hang, knack, flair, genius, raw talent
- **talent**(n = noun.person) - a person who possesses unusual innate ability in some field or activity; is a kind of expert

=====
"You are given natural talents at your natural birth and spiritual talents (spiritual gifts) at your spiritual birth. Your responsibility as a Christian is to use both in service to glorify God.

- **Talents are available to the lost.**
- **Talents operate on a physical and social level.**
- **Talents alone cannot do God's work.**
- **Talents are not the primary channel God chose through which the Holy Spirit is to work."**



"A spiritual gift is the primary channel by which the Holy Spirit can minister through the believer. Without spiritual gifts people can minister one to another only in the flesh. Spiritual gifts are God's provision for the Holy Spirit to minister to people, through people (I Corinthians 12:25).

Stop and consider the importance of this definition, for only through spiritual gifts can people minister to one another with the full power of the Holy Spirit."