

The Talents

Storyteller (picks up the Parable Box): I wonder what this is?

Matthew 25:14-30

The kingdom is also like what happened when a man went away and put his three servants in charge of all he owned. The man knew what each servant could do. So he handed five thousand coins to the first servant, two thousand to the second, and one thousand to the third. Then he left the country.

As soon as the man had gone, the servant with the five thousand coins used them to earn five thousand more. The servant who had two thousand coins did the same with his money and earned two thousand more. But the servant with one thousand coins dug a hole and hid his master's money in the ground.

Some time later the master of those servants returned. He called them in and asked what they had done with his money. The servant who had been given five thousand coins brought them in with the five thousand that he had earned. He said, "Sir, you gave me five thousand coins, and I have earned five thousand more."

"Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

Next, the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, you gave me two thousand coins, and I have earned two thousand more."

"Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

The servant who had been given one thousand coins then came in and said, "Sir, I know that you are hard to get along with. You harvest what you don't plant and gather crops where you haven't

It is the colour gold. Something inside must be precious like gold. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are even more precious than gold.

It is closed. *Knock on the lid.* It has a lid. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are closed; they need to be opened up so we can see what is in them.

The box looks like a present. Parables were given to us long ago as presents. Even if you don't know what a parable is, the parable is already yours. Shall we open it? Let's look inside.

Jesus said,

Put the figure of the master on the left-hand side of the board. The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a man went away ...

Put the three servants on the board, spaced evenly to the right of the master. ...and put his servants in charge of his money. The man knew what each servant could do. So ...

Put five bags of gold next to the first servant. ...he handed five thousand coins to the first servant,

Put two bags of gold next to the second servant. ...two thousand to the second,

Put one bags of gold next to the third servant. ...and one thousand to the third. *Remove the master from the flannelboard.* Then he left the country.

Put five more bags of gold next to the first servant. As soon as the man had gone, the servant with the five thousand coins used them to earn five thousand more.

- Story Materials**
- Flannelboard
 - Parable Box, containing felt figures of:
 - master
 - three servants
 - 15 bags of gold
 - shovel
 - circle of dirt

scattered seed. I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!”

The master of the servant told him, “You are lazy and good-for-nothing! You know that I harvest what I don’t plant and gather crops where I haven’t scattered seed.

You could have at least put my money in the bank, so that I could have earned interest on it.”

Then the master said, “Now your money will be taken away and given to the servant with ten thousand coins! Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken from those who don’t have anything. You are a worthless servant, and you will be thrown out into the dark where people will cry and grit their teeth in pain.”

Put two more bags of gold next to the second servant. The servant who had two thousand coins did the same with his money and earned two thousand more.

Put the shovel next to the third servant and hide the one bag of gold under the black circle “hole”. But the servant with one thousand coins dug a hole and hid his master’s money in the ground.

Put the master up on the flannelboard. Some time later the master of those servants returned. He called them in and asked what they had done with his money. *Move the first servant to the other side of his stack of moneybags, closer to the master.* The servant who had been given five thousand coins brought them in with the five thousand that he had earned. He said, “Sir, you gave me five thousand coins, and I have earned five thousand more.”

“Wonderful!” his master replied. “You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!”

Move the second servant to the other side of his stack of moneybags, closer to the master. Next, the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, “Sir, you gave me two thousand coins, and I have earned two thousand more.”

“Wonderful!” his master replied. “You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!”

Take the hole away and uncover the third servant's money bag but do not move the servant. The servant who had been given one thousand coins then came in and said, “Sir, I know that you are hard to get along with. You harvest what you don’t plant and gather crops where you haven’t scattered seed. I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!”

The master of the servant told him, “You are lazy and good-for-nothing! You know that I harvest what I don’t plant and gather crops where I haven’t scattered seed. You could have at least put my money in the bank, so that I could have earned interest on it.”

Move the one moneybag over onto the stack of ten bags. Then the master said, “Now your money will be taken away and given to the servant with ten thousand coins! Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken from those who don’t have anything. *Take the third servant off the board and put him back in the parable box.* You are a worthless servant, and you will be thrown out into the dark.”