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Bible Paradoxes / Matthew 25:14–30

Summary: Each believer's faithfulness will determine the rewards and assignments he or she will receive at the judgment seat of Christ.



Matthew 25:14–30 ESV

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of

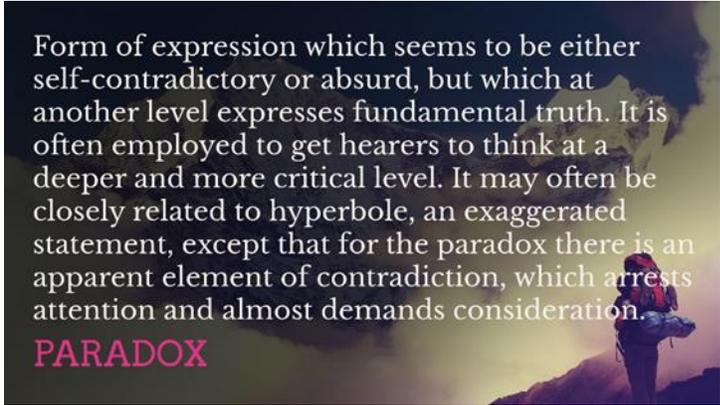
your master.’²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

1. What must we do since we do not know when the Son of Man is coming?

“_____ therefore, for you know neither the day...” Mt. 25:13

2. At the judgement seat of Christ what must we all give? “_____ of our works”

([Rom. 14:10-12](#); [2 Cor. 5:10](#))



Form of expression which seems to be either self-contradictory or absurd, but which at another level expresses fundamental truth. It is often employed to get hearers to think at a deeper and more critical level. It may often be closely related to hyperbole, an exaggerated statement, except that for the paradox there is an apparent element of contradiction, which arrests attention and almost demands consideration.

PARADOX

Ability Leads to Opportunity

- He wants us to be faithful servants, workers, and investors who obey His will, grow strong, and become capable of doing bigger and better things.

3. A talent in New Testament times was a measure of money.

4. What did the Master know about the third servant given the single talent? The master knew that this servant was a _____, _____ man.

Responsibility Involves Relationship

Ephesians 6:6 ESV

⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

Colossians 3:22 ESV

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

John 15:5 ESV

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

It is a privilege to serve the Lord and we should give Him our best.

5. What did Paul call it when a servant only worked when the Master was watching in [Eph. 6:6](#)? _____ and _____
6. Our Lord makes it very clear in [John 15:5](#) that without Him we can do _____.

Stewardship Is Not Ownership

We are stewards and must use what the Lord gives us to serve and honor Him.

1 Corinthians 4:2 ESV

² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

Galatians 6:3 ESV

³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

7. We are stewards and must use what the Lord gives us to _____ and _____ Him.
8. From him who does not have, even what he has will be _____ _____.

Faith Conquers Fear and Leads to Obedience and Blessing

- “The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly” ([Prov. 26:16](#)).

It has well been said that the person who is good at excuses is rarely good at anything else.

Fear paralyzes, but faith energizes.

Isaiah 12:2 ESV

² “Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

Psalms 27:1 ESV

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 34:4 ESV

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

1 John 5:4 ESV

⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

9. The unprofitable servant thought his master was a hard man to work for, he was controlled by _____ and not _____.

10. Fear _____, but faith _____.