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## The Parables of Jesus Christ: A Traveler, Three Stewards, and Eight Talents

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## PARABLE FORTY-SIX: A Traveler, Three Stewards, and Eight Talents (Mt. 25:14-30)

### SURVEY

Prior to his departure on an important mission a nobleman entrusted to his three chief servants eight talents, giving five to the first servant, two to the second, and one to the third. Upon his return, he discovered:

1. The servant who had received five talents had doubled this and was generously rewarded:

*"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord"* (Mt. 25:21).

2. The servant who had received two talents had also doubled his money and likewise rewarded as had been the first servant.

3. The servant who had received one talent had done absolutely nothing and was severely punished.

*"His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Mt. 25:26-30)

### SIGNIFICANCE

This parable is the final of five describing the relationships and responsibilities between a master and his servants. For the previous four, see parables 26, 34, 38, 43.

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Note both the similarities and contrasts between the talent parable (number 45) and the pound parable (number 38).
  - A. Similarities between the talent parable and the pound parable:

1. Both parables describe the stewardship arrangements between a departing master and his servants.
2. Both relate the accounting episode upon the master's return.
3. Both record faithfulness on the part of at least two servants who are subsequently rewarded.
4. Both record the unfaithfulness on the part of one servant who is subsequently punished.

B. Contrast between the talent and pound parable

1. The master of the servants—He is a nobleman in Luke 19 and a traveler in Matthew 25.
2. The number of servants—There are ten in the pound parable and three in the talent parable.
3. The responsibility of the servants—In Luke 19 each servant receives the same, approximately \$5000, the value of a pound. In Matthew 25 the first servant is entrusted with five talents (\$1.5 million), the second servant two talents (\$600,000), and the third servant one talent (\$300,000).
4. The accomplishments of the faithful servants—In Luke 19 the first servant increased his pound 1,000 percent. In Matthew 25 the first two servants doubled their original sum.
5. The punishment of the unfaithful servants—In Luke 19 the man lost the original pound, but in Matthew 25 the man not only had the talent taken from him, but was then cast into outer darkness.

- Here it may prove helpful to repeat the following differences between these two parables as were previously observed under parable 38:

A. What is the difference between the pound parable here in Luke 19 and the talent parable related shortly after this in Matthew 25? It has been suggested that the difference is as follows:

1. The pounds represent the opportunities of life.
2. The talents speak of the different gifts God imparts to us.

B. Whatever the case, both the pound and the talent parables stress three all-important themes:

1. My abilities and opportunities from God in the past
2. My dependability for God at the present
3. My accountability to God in the future