



# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

## The Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup> “**F**or the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. <sup>15</sup>And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. <sup>16</sup>Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. <sup>17</sup>And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ <sup>21</sup>His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>22</sup>He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ <sup>23</sup>His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

<sup>24</sup> “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup> “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

<sup>27</sup> So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

<sup>29</sup> ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” Matthew 25:14-30

## The Parable of the Talents



What do you do in the kingdom of God with the gifts & talents He has entrusted you?

Are you a faithful servant that God can entrust many things, gift or talents or are you a wicked, lazy servant who is doomed because of their wrong choices?

In this teaching Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven in the context of a wealthy man giving his servants money to invest.

While he goes away he leaves them with his money to use as they think best. While there were no strings attached, this was obviously a test to see if the Master's workers would be diligent and reliable in their use of the money entrusted to them. The master rewards those who are productive and faithful and he punishes those who sit by idly and who do nothing with his money.

The essence of the parable seems to lie in the servants' conception of responsibility. Each servant entrusted with the master's money was faithful up to a certain point. The servant who buried the master's money was irresponsible. One can bury seeds in the ground and expect them to become productive because they obey natural laws.

The slothful servant is ungrateful, unjust, erroneous in reason, fault-finding and accusing, self-justifying, fearful, wicked. Another characteristic of a slothful man he is always afraid of venture out in business and take risks.

The Lord entrusts the subjects of his kingdom with gifts and graces and He gives His subjects the freedom to use them as they think best. With each gift and talent, God gives sufficient the means (grace and wisdom) for using them in a fitting way. As the parable of the talents shows, God abhors indifference and an attitude that says it's not worth trying. God honors those who use their talents and gifts for doing good. Those who are faithful with even a little are entrusted with more! But those who neglect or squander what God has entrusted to them will lose what they have.

There is an important lesson here for us.

No one can stand still for long in the Christian life. We either get more or we lose what we have. We either advance the kingdom of God with what He has given us or we slip back and seek glory for ourselves.

Do you earnestly seek to serve God with the gifts, talents, and graces he has given to you?

When we reach Christ's judgement seat, our primary reward will be to hear Him say **"Well done, good and faithful servant"** **Matthew 25:21**. We will also receive our new assignment In God's kingdom. This is the part of the reward that says: **"You were faithful in few things; I will put you in charge over many things"**. God doesn't tolerate slothfulness and laziness. God has a plan for each of us to pursue and He has gifted each of His children specifically for that purpose. This world is the training ground for what the Father has in store for us, so let's prepare like good and faithful servants.



"Lord, be the ruler of my heart and thoughts, be the king of my home and relationships, and be the master of my work and service. Help me to make good use of the gifts, talents, time, and resources you give me for your glory and your kingdom." Amen.