

and reckoneth with them." This is to teach us, that Christ will come again, to call men to give an account of the manner in which they have used their talents. We read in the Bible of some people, who are so foolish and wicked as to say, because he is so long of coming, that he will never come at all. But however long it may be till then, he will certainly come, and those who have spoken in such a way, will find themselves awfully mistaken.

Each of the servants told their master what use they had made of the money he had given them; and so, "every one of us must give account of himself to God." Those of them who had made a good use of it, did not boast of what they had done. Thus the true servants of Christ, who have faithfully employed all their talents in his service, will not be proud of their good works, or suppose that they have deserved any reward for them. While they are in this world, they do not do what is right, in order that men may praise them; they rather try to hide many of their good actions from others. But at the day of judgment, the Saviour will call upon them to tell all these things, before the whole multitude of all the men that have ever lived; and then those who formerly ridiculed them will be ashamed; while they themselves will be unspeakably happy, in being kindly approved by the Judge. There was sin mixed with all they did on earth, even with their best services; but their sins will not be mentioned then, because they have been all forgiven for the Saviour's sake. The master said, "Well done, 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." If you read from the 34th verse to the 40th of the same chapter which contains this parable, you will see what the Judge will say at last to his faithful servants.

The servant who had but one talent, came and said, "Lord I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed; and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth." There are few persons so bold as to say that God is a hard master, who requires more than they can perform: but many think so in their hearts. All men naturally hate him, and dislike to submit to him, Rom. viii. 7. And at the day of judgment, all their wicked and foolish thoughts of God will be exposed before angels and men.