

which enables us to apprehend cause and effects, duties and obligations, and to judge between right and wrong; *influence*—power arising from our rank, station, knowledge or wealth; *religious privileges*—the word of God, preached gospel, Sabbath ordinances, the gift of the Holy Spirit, opportunities of growth and usefulness.

2. *God will require an account of the employment of our capital.* This truth is made amply clear in the teachings of our Lord. To this truth our conscience responds; this is essential to accountability. Everyone has to give an account of all that God has entrusted to him; none too great to evade, none too small to escape. Improvement will be expected from each, for this purpose the capital was given. It is to be used wisely, conscientiously, according to the opportunities given. Men will be judged not according to their talents, but according to the use they have made of them. Fidelity in the use will be the test.

3. *God will reward his faithful servants.* The servant who gained ten pounds had rule over ten cities; the man who had gained five over five cities. The reward granted to fidelity consisted of three things: First. Increased spiritual capital. Faithful use always increases capital. Who, for example, can faithfully study their Bible and not gain deeper insight into its great and comforting truths, and so in every department of christian experience and service? Second. The hearty approval of the Master. The "well done" of the Lord cannot but increase our joy and delight in his service. Third. A larger sphere of usefulness with its increased responsibility, power and influence. Fidelity

in the lesser duties and responsibilities of life lead to larger spheres, higher duties, greater opportunities.

4. *God will punish the unfaithful and slothful.* "Take from him the pound." In the case of those who are unfaithful the opportunities pass away, the abilities diminish, the power to work disappears, and they lose the very means by which they might have been useful. The sin of omission proves the servant wholly unfit for the position of trust. We are responsible not only for our sins, but for all the good influences which would have resulted from our lives if we had been faithful. Though the unfaithful may attempt to excuse themselves for their want of fidelity, the Lord will show them that on the very ground on which they base their excuse they should have been doubly concerned to improve their talents.

#### ADDED POINTS.

1. Christ is king and we should be obedient servants.
2. God gives most precious gifts to all.
3. The attitude of sinners towards Christ is "we will not have this man to reign over us."
4. The account to be rendered is a personal.
5. The account is of opportunities as well as possessions.
6. The importance of fidelity and diligence in the service of God.
7. Exemption from flagrant sins will not save us.
8. Fidelity is the test and will be rewarded.
9. Neglect, unfaithfulness will be punished.
10. The awful fate of those who reject the Lord.

### THE BLACKBOARD.

## JESUS THE SAVIOUR

### Shewing us OUR ACCOUNTABILITY.

1. EVERY ONE has BLESSINGS, OPPORTUNITIES, &c.

2. EVERY ONE MUST give an ACCOUNT to CHRIST.

#### USED MULTIPLY.

3. BLESSINGS, &c.,

UNUSED, ARE LOST.

4. FAITHFULNESS  
REWARDED

GROWTH,—Gained ten pounds.  
BY CHRIST'S APPROVAL,—"**WELL DONE.**"  
A WIDER SPHERE,—"**Ten cities.**"  
NEW CAPITAL,—Give to him. (v. 24.)

5. WHAT ARE MY OPPORTUNITIES?

AM I USING THEM FAITHFULLY?

6. BE FAITHFUL IN ALL THINGS. (G. T.)

Enforce 1. EVERY ONE has blessings, &c. 2. EVERY ONE must give an account of how these blessings, &c., are used, or not used. 3. Contrast the RESULTS of USING and NOT USING blessings, &c. 4. Point out REWARDS if FAITHFULNESS in using blessings, &c. 5. Apply the teaching to EACH ONE. Make these questions PERSONAL. 6. Emphasize the importance of applying the lesson to LITTLE THINGS, —to ALL THINGS, in EVERY-DAY LIFE. This will give your teaching a practical application, which should be followed by prayer that it may bring forth GOOD FRUIT.