

Lesson III.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

October 21, 1906

Matthew 25 : 14-30. Commit to memory v. 21. Read Luke 19 : 11-27.

GOLDEN TEXT—A faithful man shall abound with blessings.—Proverbs 28 : 20.

14 For ¹the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to ²every man according to his several ability; and ³straightway took his journey.

16 ⁴Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 ⁵And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went ⁶and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and ⁷reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained ⁸beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will ⁹make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents:

Revised Version—¹it is as when a man, going into another country called; ²each; ³he went on; ⁴Straightway; ⁵In like manner; ⁶away; ⁷maketh a reckoning; ⁸other five talents; ⁹set thee over; ¹⁰other two; ¹¹did not sow; ¹²did not scatter; ¹³did not scatter; ¹⁴bankers; ¹⁵back; ¹⁶interest; ¹⁷out.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Talents, 14, 15.

II. The Traders, 16-18.

III. The Reckoning, 19-30.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The parable of the talents, Matt. 25 : 14-30.

T.—Parable of the pounds, Luke 19 : 12-27. W.—

The wicked husbandmen, Matt. 21 : 33-43. Th.—

Faithful and unfaithful, Luke 12 : 41-48. F.—Use

of talents, Rom. 12 : 1-8. S.—Fruitful service, 2 Pet.

1 : 1-11. S.—Reward of faithfulness, 2 Tim. 4 : 1-8.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—As in last Lesson, Tuesday, April 4, Mount of Olives.

Connecting Links—This parable follows immediately on that of the Ten Virgins (last Lesson).

I. The Talents, 14, 15.

V. 14. *It is as* (Rev. Ver.). We have here another parable, to show that service in the kingdom of heaven is a great trust. *A man, going into another country* (Rev. Ver.). Jesus was the Disposer of the kingdom. Here, as everywhere else, He places Himself in the centre of it, and He intends His disciples to think of His approaching death, not as an accident, but as a thoroughly planned journey into another realm. *His own servants*; upper servants or slaves. Such slaves, in the world of that time, were often given positions of high trust, and they conducted many of

behold, I have gained ¹⁰two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, 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.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou ¹¹hast not sown, and gathering where thou ¹²hast not straved:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid my talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast *that* is thine.

26 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 ¹³have not straved:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the ¹⁴exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received ¹⁵mine own with ¹⁶usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one 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.

30 And cast ¹⁷ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?* A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.

The Question on Missions—39. Who were Dr. Mackay's first helpers? Mr. Giam (better known as A-Hoa) and Mr. Tan, both of whom were able and successful preachers, and were in course of time ordained as ministers.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 389 (from Supplemental Lesson); 255; 275; 16 (Ps. Sel.); 590 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 111.

the large business transactions. *Delivered unto them his goods*; his property, the capital he had available for trading purposes.

V. 15. *Five talents*. The talent was originally a measure of weight, money in early times being weighed, not coined, as with us. In our Lord's day, however, coins were in use. One of these was the "mina" or "pound" (Luke 19 : 13). Sixty minas were reckoned as a talent, about \$1,200 of our money. The first servant received, therefore, about \$6,000. *Two*; about \$2,400. *One*; about \$1,200. So there are different ranks of service in Christ's kingdom; but to each individual is entrusted some duty, corresponding to his ability.

II. The Traders, 16-18.

Vs. 16-18. *Straightway he . . . went*, etc. (Rev. Ver.); teaching us to be prompt and urgent