

led them to account after he came back ; and how he rewarded each of them.

The man travelling into a far country, is intended to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, who has left this world, and gone into heaven. The talents given to the servants, are all the things which Jesus Christ has given to those who are his servants, which they can employ in his service.

Money is one talent which he has given to them ; and though they are to provide what is necessary for themselves and their families, whatever money they can spare after doing that, ought to be spent in serving Christ. He does not, as you know, need it himself, but he has commanded us to help the poor, especially such as love him. He considers every kindness shown to them the same as if done to himself. It is also the duty of his servants to give money to buy Bibles for those who have none, and who cannot pay for them ; to help to support those ministers who employ themselves in preaching the gospel ; and to assist in the expense of missionaries going to the heathen. In these ways, and in many others, money may be used in the service of Christ.

Leisure time is another talent, which he has given to his servants. Many of them have to spend a great part of their time in working for their bread ; and even while they are doing that they are serving him, if they are diligent and industrious, because he has commanded them to be so. But whatever leisure they have, they should especially try to use it in his service. They should take every proper opportunity of reading the Bible, praying to God, hearing his word, and thinking about what they have read and heard. By his blessing, they will thus learn to love him more and more, they will become more anxious to do his will, and be made fit to enter heaven. They should also try to instruct those who are ignorant of the way of salvation, and talk to them of the love of Christ, that they may be led to love him too.

It is impossible for me to tell you all the different talents which Jesus Christ has given to his servants ; but whatever they have, that they can in any way use to serve him, is a talent committed to them by him. And remember, that whatever *any man* possesses, he has received from God, whether he is a servant of Christ or not. None should think, that because they do not pretend to be his