

The Sunday School Lesson

FEBRUARY 27TH

Rewards of Faithfulness, St. Matt. 25: 14-30. Golden Text
—St. Matt. 25: 23.

Time and Place—Tuesday, April 4, A.D. 29; Mount of Olives.
Connecting Links—The Parable of the Talents is part of the same discourse as that of the Ten Virgins whose teaching it supplements. There is work to be done in the time of waiting for Christ's return, and even the least talented are responsible for the use of their powers and opportunities.

I. The Trust, 14, 15.
V. 14. For; links the lesson with v. 13, which describes the suddenness and unexpectedness of Christ's coming. We are now to be told of something that will happen when He comes. The kingdom of heaven; literally, "it is." The parable pictures the way in which the Lord, when He comes again, will deal with his servants. Travelling into a far country; about to go abroad, perhaps on some trading enterprise. Travelling was difficult in those days; and it was necessary, therefore, to entrust someone with the management of his money. Called his own servants; slaves, personally his absolute property, so that whatever they made was necessarily his. So Jesus Himself would soon depart for heaven, leaving his disciples to spread the gospel for the saving of the world. Henceforth they would not see Him with the bodily eye, though he would still really be with them. Delivered; not as their property, but as trust to be used for their owner's advantage. His goods; his capital. He divided his money amongst carefully selected servants (that is, slaves); with the idea that they would do their best to increase it. This was not unusual in the ancient East.

V. 15. Five talents . . . two . . . one. The talent was a weight, not a coin. A talent of silver was worth \$1,200. Several abilities. The master judged each slave's capacity, and entrusted him with means proportionately. All, however, were regarded as trustworthy, and more or less capable. Even one talent was a very considerable sum at a time when the average day's wage was about 17c. Took his journey. This ends the account of the owner's action.

II. Trading, 16-18.
Vs. 16-18. Straightway (Rev. Ver.) in the Authorized Version placed in v. 15. The word denotes the zeal of the trader. He lost no time in seeking opportunities to increase his master's money. Other five; 100 per cent. increase. The trading must have extended over a long time if this gain was legitimate. The man with two talents was equally industrious and equally successful. Dugged in the earth; a common way in ancient times of keeping money safely. Hid his lord's money. He was not dishonest, but indolent and timid. His action was safe, but not profitable. The owner could have hid the money for himself.

III. The Reckoning, 19-30.
V. 19. A long time. Since the parable deals with the Lord's coming, the expression implies that it will be delayed for a long time. In the story of the parable a long delay was necessary to give time for the trading to

accomplish its results. Reckoneth with them; has a reckoning or settlement with them, that master and servant may each receive the stipulated share of the profits.

Vs. 20, 21. Five talents . . . five more. "The first servant gives his report; bringing five and five, he presents them to the owner." Behold; as if inviting the owner to satisfy himself by counting. He does not praise himself but lets the facts speak for him. Well done. The master bestows the well merited praise. Good; highly efficient and morally deserving of praise. Faithful; loyal to his trust, to the interests of his master. Over a few things; few compared with what were about to be entrusted to him. Ruler over many things. Faithfulness in the use of our opportunities, whether large or small, results in more and larger opportunities. Enter . . . joy of thy lord. The joy which the lord possesses, the spiritual joy of the realized kingdom, the climax of blessedness.

V. 23. Well done. The second servant receives precisely the same praise and reward as the first. His abilities were not so great, but his goodness (devotion) and fidelity were equal to those of the first servant. He was not responsible to his master for his native endowments, or lack of endowments, but for a diligent and faithful use of his opportunities. He, too, receives promotion. Note, in the case of the two faithful servants, that the diligent use of natural abilities increases those abilities, and thus brings fitness for higher, nobler service.

Vs. 24, 25. Came and said. He anticipated his lord's condemnation. An hard man; an inhuman tyrant, grasping, selfish, actuated wholly by self-interest and using his advantage to squeeze the utmost possible out of others. The falseness of this stands out after the words to the other two servants. Reaping where thou hast not sown; taking a selfish advantage of the toil of others. Gathering where thou hast not strived; that is, scattered with the fan as on an Eastern threshing floor. The produce of his servant's labor he takes for himself. All work, no pay. The master is a robber, enriching himself at the expense of others. I was afraid. His fear was that he might lose the talent if he traded with it. Thou hast that is thine. He forgot that the earning power of the talent, as well as the talent, belonged to the master.

Vs. 27, 28. Wicked; inefficient, useless and also morally blameworthy. Slothful; the real explanation of his conduct; he was unwilling to exert himself. Thou oughtest . . . exchanged; bankers who not only exchanged money, but received it on deposit, paying interest and guaranteeing repayment of capital. The servant had not acted like one who really believed what he said about his master. With is a figurative word for interest or money. Banking was a very ancient occupation. The talent from him. Any gift which is not used passes from its possessor. This is true in the physical, commercial, intellectual and moral sphere. Unto him which hath ten. The energetic worker secures the chances that are lost by the idle.

Vs. 29, 30. Every one that hath . . . shall have abundance. This is the law of the "multiplying power of capital." It holds in religion as well as in business. Unprofitable servant; that is, useless. There is no place in this world, or in the kingdom, for the useless man; his place is in the outer darkness. And the man who neglects his opportunities in any realm—business, letters, religion—soon finds himself "out of it"—in the outer darkness.

Application.
The parable of the talents was meant to encourage those who were slenderly endowed, not to lose heart because the kingdom was delayed. While this was its general purpose, a number of other suggestions lie on the surface.
1. There is inequality of endowment, or, what Paul calls "diversity of gifts." The danger of people who talk much about "democracy" is that they overlook this fact, and the necessity of specially qualified leadership. Even Gorky has turned against Lenin and Trotsky in Russia, because they have slaughtered so many of the intellectual leaders of the nation. They want to reduce all to a dead level. This is the fallacy of much present day agitation also. The facts are as indicated in the parable—a great variety of endowment. One has the gifts of Lloyd George, the other of Foch, the other of the obscure, but worthy school teacher in a Ruthenian settlement in the West.
Although there is diversity of gifts, there is the same reward for faithfulness. The condemnation of the "lord" was the same—further res-

When your grocer sells you a package of Red Rose Tea (Crimson Label) at 30 cents he makes a little less profit than if he sold you a package of cheaper tea. The extra price is all in the quality.

possibility. This has been called by one writer, the "law of increasing returns." Just as we save money by thrift, and interest becomes compounded, so our knowledge and faith grow by being used.

3. We hold everything in trust. No man can say, "I can do as I like with my own wealth, my own voice, or strength." We owe all we have to the world, and God entrusts us with it; we are stewards in business, education, politics, as well as in religion.
4. The temptation of the poorly equipped man is to evade responsibility and do nothing on the plea that he is utterly insignificant. The eye is a small member of the body, but if

it is blinded, what a difference is made to all of life! The folk who have only "one talent" and do not improve it, or regard it as a sacred trust, are like the drones among the bees. It is said that the working bees have to feed the drones, but when the summer season is closing they turn them out of the hive to die, or else imprison them or sting them to death. They are cast into the outer darkness. Because they would not work, they must perish.
5. The unused talent was taken from the faithless employee. In like manner, any gift which we refuse to exercise will droop and starve and finally die.

INFLUENCES THAT HAVE AN EFFECT ON YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

By WILLIAM EMERSON, M.D.

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Unconscious suggestion often leads to surprising results. The ten-year-old son of a friend recently began to lose weight. Careful inquiry failed for some time to bring any cause to light. When the mother finally insisted upon an explanation, she found the boy's teacher had chanced to say, "A fat person does not make a good athlete." The boy had immediately reduced the amount of food he was taking. Further investigation showed that several of his mates had joined in this dieting with equally bad results.

It was no easy matter to convince them that they were in no danger of an obesity which would bar them from success in sports. The mother made an agreement with her boy under which she would pay him a dollar a pound for his gains, but she was wise enough to include also a promise from him that he would pay her at the same rate for further losses. As a result the effect of the unfortunate suggestion was quickly overcome.

Perhaps the most powerful influence in a child's life is the approval of his associates. He is quick to detect what is considered "good form" in the group to which he belongs, or wishes to belong. The spirit of competition makes a strong appeal, and a boy will spur himself on to achieve what others of his group have accomplished. This is one of the great advantages of association in our nutrition classes. The children ask each other eagerly how much they have gained, and one boy whose interest in his health had been hard to arouse at home, when brought to one of our classes, at once said he wasn't going to let those other fellows get ahead of him.

But even when the child is alone he has his own normal weight standard with which to compete. For this reason the weekly weighing should be made something of a ceremony. The father, as well as the mother, should show an interest in the child's progress, and the health program through the week should be made easier by being tied up with the record of the weight chart.

Wrong Methods of Punishment.
Counter-suggestion is much more effective than repression. One should never forget that punishment is always an individual problem. A little study of a child's nature will show how to be just and fair to him. Only on that basis can one retain the child's respect and affection. After all, nothing is better than to make it easier for him to do what is best than to "have his own way" and do himself harm.

Wrong methods of punishment are frequently the cause of malnutrition. In ideal homes there is a healthy, normal attitude, which seems to keep a child away from acts that call for punishment. When the need does come, it is met in a constructive spirit, with no evidence of retribution or bad temper.

One of the most serious cruelties practiced upon a child is withholding an expected punishment until the following day. Punishment should be for doubt never sacrifice justice for promptness. To punish justly one must know what the reactions of the child will be. Unfortunately, much punishment is given as a matter of form, with little more than superficial results. It is well to keep to well-tried and safe methods, but many mothers show a singular lack of imagination when confronted by a situation requiring discipline.

Physical punishment is rarely necessary, and should be used experimentally, and as a last resort. When it is really needed, and is well used, it may prove very effective.

The practice of sending a child to bed without supper is inexcusable, and is particularly unfortunate in the case of the malnourished child. On the other hand, taking away privileges has many advantages. One very sensible mother requires her boy to go to bed at an earlier hour than usual when he needs discipline. Especially good conduct may be recognized by reducing the early-to-bed sentence,

but she is careful not to allow it to be wholly removed.

In the complicated conditions of modern life parenthood is more than ever an art calling for great skill and judgment. Where bad control has existed for some time, it is sometimes necessary to separate a mother and child for a short period. We have had many cases in which children failed to gain, or continued to lose, while under the care of the mother, and began at once to climb to the normal weight line as soon as an aunt or cousin or grandmother took them in charge.

One mother brought her little boy a long distance to see me. He had developed such a temper that he would actually attack his mother with fists and use bad language if she dared to displease him. It did not seem possible that a child of normal mentality would conduct himself so badly, but a mental examination showed that he had no deficiency, and when he was placed in a special school, where he was taught to obey, his abnormalities all disappeared.

The principles on which stocks and crops have been so wonderfully developed are now carrying over into the organization of the farm home, the rural school, and other social units. Life on the farm has wonderful possibilities for the rising generation.

Play is Necessary to Health.
Nothing is more pathetic than the child who has never learned to play. Many nervous breakdowns are directly caused by the failure to acquire the habit of play in childhood. The extent to which adults use play in their own lives makes it easier for the child to start right and to keep on the right track.

There is wonderful training for the growing child in play. In it the children learn to discipline themselves and each other. It develops initiative, self-confidence, and judgment. The same strategy worked out in games was found to be the basis of success in war manoeuvres.

Games interfere with the farmer's plans, perhaps, yet since they are of value in the education and health of the boy, is it not worth while to make a place for them in the day's program? No achievement is of greater importance than to establish right ideals for a child to grow up to, and to afford him associations which he will carry through life with satisfaction and pride.

I remember one evening walking up the road in a Swiss village, and stopping to see the enjoyment of a group of young farmhands were getting from some simple gymnastic apparatus placed out of doors in the schoolyard. Night after night they came there and went through stunts and contests which brought into use muscles not exercised in the day's occupation. Twice a week, in the inn parlor, they joined with others in community singing that would have done credit to professional groups. These experiences brought to mind the loafers around the corner store in some of our own rural communities—as fine young men, potentially, as one could know, but no one has produced the machinery to afford them the relaxation, fun, and healthy exercise that were so conducive to growth and development over there.

A Reason for Every Act.
There is an old story of an inland farm home from which one son after another ran away to sea. The parents could not understand what there was in their life which led their boys to make this choice. One day a visitor, knowing what had happened, pointed to a picture on the wall of a ship at full sail, which, during the impressionable years of boyhood, had served to set up in their minds the idea of a life at sea as a relief from the monotony and drudgery which the boys suffered in their home.

Possibly there was even more need that those parents should be shown what it was in the home that the boys wished to escape, than the association which offered them the way out. When farm life is disagreeable it is

not drudgery alone that makes it so. There is drudgery to be found in the North woods or in a mountain camping trip, but the boy has some idea of its meaning, and to some extent it is self-imposed.

It is necessary to awaken the child's desire to have a conscious part in what is being done, and not to take it merely as a matter of routine and obedience. It is worth much to the child to find its parents genuinely interested in the things they consider good for him, and he will reciprocate by taking an interest in their aims and achievements if the home atmosphere is one of co-operation and good understanding.

While yours is the final responsibility in bringing your child up to normal weight, he can be made an active agent in assisting you to put the program through. Put the matter up to him with perfect frankness. The child must take a personal interest in the subject. If he realizes that energy is in proportion to chest development, for instance, he will be ready to work out the means to this end.

Appeal to the imagination through reading, and suggest tales of hardihood and vigor like "Lorna Doone" and Cooper's "The Deerslayer." Nothing counts for more than the painting of mental pictures revealing possibilities of strength, force, and attractiveness in such vivid form that the child is ready to work to make them realities in his own case.

When you have adopted your health program, and so aroused the child's own interest that he is ready and anxious to do his part in making it a success, then only are you fully co-operating with that powerful force in nature which makes for health.
(The End.)

Ten Rules for Livestock Men.

Be honest.
Choose a breed and stick to it.
Breed with the correct type in mind.
Study pedigree for inherited characteristics, relative merit and value.
Keep your herd or flock free from disease.
Develop the young animals and maintain the breeding animals through wise feeding and management.
Boost better livestock in your community.
Advertise judiciously.
Exhibit at the county, provincial, and other livestock shows.
A satisfied purchaser is your best advertisement. Therefore, be prompt in registering and transferring animals, and make good all guarantees.

Now is the Time to
Organize.
Make a hotbed.
Clean seed grains.
Burn charcoal for pigs.
Cut trees for fence-posts.
Spray trees for San Jose scale.
Order specials from seed catalogs.
Swat the rats and English sparrows.
Get up wood, so it will season for next winter's use.
Drive a nail into the cork in the bluing bottle and when bluing is wanted remove the nail and pour fluid out through this small hole.

Poultry

L. W.: Several of my best laying hens grow dreadfully large combs under their feet. They have soft earth to walk on all the time but they hobble about. Could you advise me what to do for them?

The swelling of the feet of your hens is called bumble-foot. It is commonly caused by infection from a cut or a stone bruise or by frequently jumping from a high perch to a hard floor.

The swelling will be found to contain a cheesy pus and must be opened and scraped out. It will not be a liquid form and so will not drain out from a small incision. A cut must be made and not just a prick in the wound.

Then clean out the wound with a solution of iodine and bandage the foot to keep out infection. Place the afflicted birds where the floor will be as clean as possible. The wound can be washed with a two per cent. carbolic acid solution and then greased with vaseline and carefully bandaged. Healing will often take place in a short time and the trouble never occur again if the cause is removed.

Small Fruits and Garden.

Take time by the forelock
And plan your garden now;
When spring has come there'll be no time

Except for spade and plow.
Beware of fake seed dealers. Buy seeds only from dealers that you know to be reliable; that stands back of their goods, or that advertise in reliable farm papers.

Try a few specialties when ordering farm and garden seed. Try one new vegetable each year.
Hotbed: If your hotbed is in a wet place, dig a trench around it to carry away the water. Get your excavation made, and when you are ready to make your hotbed much time will be saved.

Some nice day put on a pair of long-wristed leather gloves and trim the raspberries and blackberries. Cut out all dead or unthrifty canes entirely, and prune back the others (including side branches) about one-third. Burn the trimmings and thus get rid of disease and pests.

Test all old seeds before planting. Make a tester from two dinner plates. Put a piece of moist blotting-paper in one plate, place some seeds on it, put another piece of moist blotting-paper over the seeds, and invert the other plate over all. In a few days, remove the plate, turn back the blotting-paper, figure the percentage of germinated seeds, and if below ninety per cent., buy new seeds.

Garden calendar for March: Prepare manure for hotbed work. Wash, paint, and repair old hotbed sash. Build hotbed; if you have no pit dug, a surface hotbed will do. When soil temperature in hotbed has dropped to 83 deg. F., sow cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce, and prize-taker onions; these may be sown in flats or directly in soil of hotbed.

When feeding ground oats to young pigs it is better to sift the oats and throw out the hulls.

Home Made Bread

Home made bread is without doubt the cheapest and most healthful food that can be produced for human consumption. It is the most completely digested solid food in the world, over 90% of it being transformed into health and strength. It yields nearly twice as much nourishment as rice or potatoes, and is ten times as nourishing as an equal value of meat. No bread is more truly wholesome or more perfectly satisfactory than that baked at home in which Royal Yeast Cakes are used.

Scientists have discovered a new and truly wonderful use for Royal Yeast Cakes. Physicians are prescribing it with remarkable success for conditions attributed to poor blood conditions. Soak a cake of Royal Yeast for half an hour in a cup of lukewarm water with one teaspoon sugar. Then stir well and strain once or twice through muslin and drink the liquid. BETTER results will be obtained by allowing it to soak over night and drinking half an hour before breakfast. Repeat as often as desired. Send name and address for free booklet entitled "Royal Yeast for Better Health."

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