

The Parable of the Talents

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

By the triple right of creation, preservation and redemption, God owns us and all that we have. v. 14.

The scales of heaven never err in measuring either our powers or our tasks. v. 15.

It is work that wins. vs. 16, 17.

To stand still, in God's work, is to go backward. v. 18.

No life is too short to fulfil the purpose of Him who gave it. v. 19.

Nothing should satisfy us that is short of our best. v. 20.

Duty is the doorway to privilege. v. 21.

It is far nobler to serve through love than through fear. vs. 24, 25.

Neglect is a sure road to loss and shame. vs. 26, 27.

Capacity is extirpated by disuse, and enlarged by exercise. vs. 28, 29.

From the Library

Slaves in antiquity were often artisans, paying some fixed yearly tax to their master; or money was committed to them wherewith to trade on his account, or with which to enlarge their business, bringing in to him a share of their profits. Trench.

Success is naught, endeavor is all.—Browning.

Every being that can live and do something : this let him do.—Carlyle.

There is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, and sincere earnestness.—Dickens.

Force thyself to abound in little services.—F. W. Robertson.

Heaven does with us as we with torches do ; Not light them for themselves : for if our virtues

Did not go forth of us, 'twere all empty
As if we had them not. Spirits are not finely
touched

But for fine issue : nor Nature never lends
The smallest scruple of her excellence,
But like a thrifty goddess she determines
Herself the glory of a creditor,
Both thanks and use.—Shakespeare.

There are two religions in this world : there is the religion of fear, and there is the religion of love ; and if you have not the one, you must have the other, if you have any at all. The only way to get perfect love that casts out fear is to be quite sure of the Father-love in heaven that begets it. And the only way to be sure of the infinite love in the heavens that kindles some little spark of love in our hearts here, is to go to Christ and learn the lesson that He reveals to us at His Cross. Love will annihilate the fear ; or rather, if I may take such a figure, will set a light to the wreathing smoke that rises, and flash it all up into a ruddy flame. For the perfect love that casts out fear sublimates it into reverence and changes it into trust. Have you got that love, and did you get it at Christ's Cross ? —Alexander MacLaren.

We are not to limit our possibilities to the measure of the five loaves ; we have the five loaves plus the Lord of the harvest, and it is in this divine combination that we attain the possibility of feeding the multitude. The man of the parable fixed his eyes upon the five loaves and ignored the possibility of an immediate harvest. He gazed at his little talent and he left out God.—J. H. Jowett.

It seems very certain that the world is to grow better and richer in the future, not by the magnificent achievement of the highly gifted few, but by the patient faithfulness of the one-talented many.—Phillips Brooks.

If we blow out our lights, if we quench and smother them in selfish and thoughtless indulgence, what can we expect but the darkness.—J. H. Jowett.

Prove from Scripture

That Jesus desires our love.

Lesson Questions

[FROM THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

Juniors—Which was the parable of last Lesson ? Which is the parable of this Lesson ?

14, 15 Whither was a man going ? Whom did he leave in charge of his goods ? How many servants were there ? How much did the first receive ? The second ? The third ?