

Matthew 25 : 14-30—Memory Verse, 21.

Golden Text—A faithful man shall abound with blessings.—Proverbs 28 : 20.

14 For the 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 every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

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

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

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

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth 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 beside 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 make 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: behold, I have gained two 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 a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy 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 have not strawed:

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

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

Then Jesus told His disciples still another parable, to show how He would deal with men when He came to judge the earth. "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain rich man, who went on a journey to a far country. Before leaving, he called his servants, and gave to each one of them a part of his property to care for during his absence. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one,—to each one as much as he thought he was able to take charge of; and then he set out on his journey.

The two who had received most traded with their money, and so, by thought and work, made it twice as much; but the man who had received the one talent, lazily did not try to do anything with his money, but hid it away in the ground.

After a long time, the master returned, and again calling his servants to him, asked what they had done with the money en-

trusted to their care. Then the one who had been given the five talents came and said, "Lord, you gave me five talents; with them, I have gained five more." And his lord was pleased and said, "You have done well, good and faithful servant; and because you have shown yourself faithful in small things, I will trust you with far greater and more important things. Enter into the joy of your lord." And he also said the same thing to the servant who, with his two talents, had gained two more.

Last of all came the servant who had received only one talent; and he said, "Lord, I did not know what to do with the talent, for you are a hard man in money matters, looking for great profits when you have laid out very little; therefore I was afraid to trade with it, lest I should lose it, and thus anger you. So, to keep it safe, I hid it in the earth. There it is, just as you gave it to me."