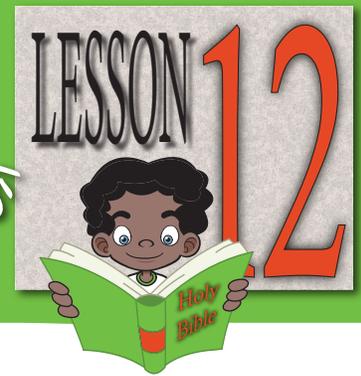


The Parable of The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30



New Testament 2
Part 2: Jesus the Master Teacher

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 25:14-30

MEMORY WORK:

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord’” (Matthew 25:21).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“I Want to be a Worker”](#)
- [“What God Has Given”](#)
- [“Make Me a Servant”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP’s Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Miracles & Teachings of Jesus](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
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- [“Map of New Testament World”](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
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- Parables of Jesus A Beka flash-a-card series: series #2 (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Bring in a bag of fake or toy coins
- Pictures of people doing good things for others (feeding poor, big brother/big sister)



- programs, etc.).
- **Pictures of things God has given us**: Ask the students how we can use these items to further God’s Kingdom (e.g., hourglass representing time, pile of money, our hands, feet, cars, houses, etc.; example pictures provided in activity sheets)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

We cannot be lazy while waiting for the Second Coming of Christ. God wants us to use what He has given us (time, energy, talents, money, etc.) to serve Him faithfully, like the five- and two-talent servants.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus was the greatest teacher the world has ever known. He had the wonderful ability to make deep, heavenly truths understandable to all kinds of people. Although Jesus worked with people from all social classes, most of His teaching was aimed at the common people of Israel—the shepherds, the fishermen, and the laborers. Most of those who heard Jesus were poorly educated, so it was necessary for Him to teach them by using simple words and ideas. To solve the problem of passing on deep truths to such people, Jesus used a common teaching tool known as a parable (“an earthly story with a heavenly meaning”). In the parable of the talents, Jesus used man’s use of money to teach a lesson about stewardship and the Second Coming of Christ.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Some teachers have defined parables as “earthly stories with heavenly meanings.” The English word “parable” comes from the Greek word *parabole*, which means “to throw alongside.” The word also is related to the word “parallel,” which usually describes two similar things laid side-by-side. Two things that are “thrown alongside” each other are easier to compare. The goal of a parable is to compare one thing to another—with one of the objects being an important spiritual lesson and the other being an event from everyday life. For instance, Jesus compared His own relationship with His people to the relationship of a shepherd with his sheep (Luke 15:1-7), and He used such words as salt and light to describe the influence of a Christian (Matthew 5:13-16). In the parable of the talents, Jesus used man’s use of money to teach a lesson about stewardship and the Second Coming of Christ.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In the parable of the **talents**, recorded in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus told the story of a wealthy man who was getting ready to travel to a far country. Before leaving, the master entrusted his servants with his money. He gave one man five talents, one man two talents, and another man one talent.



NOTE: Talents: In the parable, these talents were not “talents” like we normally think of talents (such as being a good singer or baseball player). In Jesus’ day, a talent was literally an amount of money. In fact, a talent was a large sum of money. Some scholars think that one talent of silver was worth thousands of dollars. However, although in Jesus’ day talents were literal large sums of money, in this parable they represent “entrusted responsibilities.” Stress to your students that the “talents” these servants were entrusted with represent the time, energy, mind, bodies, abilities (talents), money, etc. that God has given us to use for His glory.

2. The master (who represents Christ) wisely gave the servants (who represent followers of Christ) what he knew each one could handle. The servant with five talents traded and gained five more; and the servant with two talents traded and earned two more. But the man with one talent buried his money in the ground and left it there until the master came back!
3. After a long while, the master returned and asked his servants to explain what they had accomplished with the money he had given them. He was very proud of the first two, and praised both of them for their good stewardship (Matthew 25:21,23). On the other hand, the third servant explained that he had decided to bury his money until the master’s return.
4. The master called the servant wicked and lazy for not using the money properly (Matthew 25:26-27). Finally, the master gave the third servant’s talent to the first servant, and explained that those who have much will receive even more, while those who have little will lose what they do have. With that, the master charged: “Cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30).
5. Jesus used this parable to teach that we cannot be lazy while waiting for the Second Coming of Christ (cf. Proverbs 13:4). If we do not work for the Lord, we will lose what we have and end up with nothing, just like the lazy servant (Matthew 25:29-30). But if we work hard and remain faithful, we will gain even more, so that when Jesus returns He will say to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord.”

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[The Parable of the Talents Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Hide the Bag of Coins activity ([cutouts](#) provided in activity sheets): Have the children close their eyes, and have one of the children hide a bag of coins. Take turns trying to find the bag. What good is the money if it stays hidden? Can you spend it?
- “[Things God Has Given to Us](#)” Activity (provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Have the children draw things they like to do in their free time. How many of these things can they use to serve God? What could they be doing to serve God? This could lead to a discussion and open into the lesson.
- “[The Ten Talents](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- List your talents, hobbies, or things you like to do in your free time. How many of these could be used for God? What could you be doing to serve God? This could be an introduction to the lesson.
- “[The Ten Talents](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - Matthew 25
 - *Discovery* magazine issues (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): “Working For a Fortune” ([April, 2018](#));
 - *The Parable of the Talents*, Arch books, by Dreyer
 - *The Parables of Jesus*, Arch books, Julianne Booth (DISCLAIMER: Change to “Lazarus to Paradise did go”)

SONGS:

“I WANT TO BE A WORKER” ([Click to hear](#))

Author: Isaiah Baltzell

I want to be a worker for the Lord.
I want to love and trust His holy Word.
I want to sing and pray,
And be busy every day,
In the vineyard of the Lord.

CHORUS:

I will work, I will pray,
In the vineyard, in the vineyard of the Lord.
I will work, I will pray.
I will labor every day, in the vineyard of the Lord.

I want to be a worker every day,
I want to lead the erring in the way,
That leads to Heav’n above,
Where all is peace and love,
In the vineyard of the Lord.

(CHORUS)

I want to be a worker strong and brave.
I want to trust in Jesus’ pow’r to save;
All who will truly come,
Shall find a happy home,
In the vineyard of the Lord.

(CHORUS)

I want to be a worker; help me, Lord,
To lead the lost and erring to Thy Word,
That points to joys on high,

Where pleasures never die,
In the vineyard of the Lord.

(CHORUS)

“WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown *

CHORUS:

What God has given, I must use.
It's not for me to choose.
My time,
My money,
My energy,
All to spread God's good news!

VERSE:

Then one day I hope to hear,
“Well done, good and faithful servant;
You were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

(CHORUS)

“MAKE ME A SERVANT”

[See Internet for words and tune]

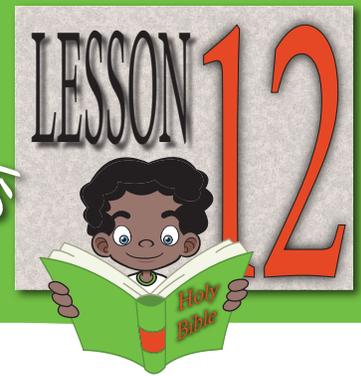
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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The Parable of The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30



New Testament 2
Part 2: Jesus the Master Teacher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Matthew 25:14-30

MEMORY WORK:

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

- Briefly review Sunday morning's lesson (see [N.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- [N.T. 2 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Tell the students that no matter how old or young you are, you can use your time, money, and abilities to help others and teach them about God (1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.").
2. Have the students bring in benevolent items for the church pantry. Ask the deacon(s), over benevolence, to come and tell the students what is done to help others in the community. Let the kids tour the benevolent building or pantry room (if available).
3. Have individuals who exemplify a servant attitude come in and talk about what a person can do to help others (preacher, elders, etc).
4. Have the students write cards to the shut-ins and sick of the congregation.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning's lesson

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