

In the Bible, many times, Jesus would tell His friend stories to help them learn important lessons.

This is one of the stories Jesus told.

Once there was a very rich man who owned a large house and lots of land. He had many servants to help him take care of his property.

One day he told his servants that he was leaving town on a long trip. He chose 3 faithful workers to be in charge of his money.

He gave the first worker 5 talents. (Count out 5 pennies) That is equal to about 5 thousand dollars!

Then the rich man gave the second worker 2 talents. (Count out two pennies) That is equal to about 2 thousand dollars.

And finally the rich man gave the third worker 1 talent. (Hold up one finger and then count out one penny) That is equal to about 1 thousand dollars.

After the rich man got all of his affairs in order, he left on his trip and trusted the servants to use his money in a smart way—to earn him even more money.

You see he didn't want them to just keep the money safe, he wanted them to use his money to invest it wisely so that his money would earn even more money.

Right away, the first servant began to find ways to put that money to work for the man. He worked very, very hard at investing the money in things that would earn even more money. Perhaps he would buy something for 1 dollar and then he resold it for two dollars. Or maybe he used the money to buy seeds to plant crops and then when he harvested the crops, he made a lot more money than what he had spent on seed. The Bible does not tell

us HOW he invested the money but little by little the servant took the five talents and turned it into 10 talents. He had DOUBLED his masters money.

At the same time the servant with the 2 talents worked and worked to earn more money for his master. He too had soon doubled his money.

He had taken the two talents that his master had entrusted to him and he had turned it into 4 talents.

Now the third servant was a very different from the first two servants. He was to scared to spend any of the money. He was afraid that if he spent anything that he might not be able to get it back. He was afraid that if he lost any of the money, his master would be terrible angry with him and that he might even get punished by him. So the third servant made the decision to dig a hole in the ground

and hide his one talent that his master had entrusted to him. He didn't want to worry about what the rich man would say if he lost the money. He dug a hole in the ground and buried the money in a secret hiding place. So, the third servant did not do any work and he did not earn any extra money for his master.

Finally, one day the rich man came back from his trip. He eagerly called the three servants into his office to see what they had earned for him. The man with the 5 talents said, "Here sir. You gave me 5 talents and I have earned 5 more."

"You have done a good job!" the rich man said, "You are a worker that I can trust. I will put you in charge of much more because I know that I can trust you."

Next, the worker with the 2 talents said, "Here are the 2 talents you gave me. I have also earned 2 more talents."

“You have done a good job!” the rich man said, “You are a worker that I can trust. I will put you in charge of much more because I know that I can trust you.”

Finally the third worker spoke up. He carefully brought the rich man the 1 talent that was given to him. He said, “I was afraid this 1 talent might get lost or stolen. Then you would have been angry with me. So I decided to dig a hole and hide the talent to keep it safe.”

“What!” the rich man angrily said. “You could have at least put the money in the bank to earn interest instead of doing nothing!”

The rich man took the money from the third servant and gave it to the first worker because he had done what the master asked.

You know this story is a very good lesson to us. God gives each of us special gifts, or special talents. We can either work as hard as we can at whatever that job is, or we can be lazy and scared and waste what the gifts and talents God has given us.

God allow us to choose, and it is up to us to do what would be pleasing to God. Some of us may be good singers, some of us may be good teachers, some of us may be good missionaries. Some of us may have all of these talents rolled into one. But like Sunny our puppet, God has a purpose for everyone. And when we waste our talent, when we don't use them for the glory of God, we are just like the man who buried his talent in the ground. We are to figure out what talents we have, and how we can use them to glorify God. We are to use all the talents that God has given each of us and not waste them.

Memory Verse:

**Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus for good works...**

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