# Lessons Learned From The One Talent Servant

**John Banning** · Matthew 25:14–30

## INTRODUCTION

- This parable is a fictional tale. But it serves as a cautionary tale for the Christian.
- It serves as a warning to us that when we enter the kingdom of the Lord, we're expected to work.
- We all have at least one talent too many to justify laziness and waste in the kingdom of the Lord.

## 1 One Talent Too Many to Say I've Been Given Nothing

**Matthew 18:24–25; 1 Corinthians 12:14–18**

- Sometimes we try to justify our wasting our ability by claiming that we haven't been given anything to use.
- The Bible never says that he was offended by his given amount. He was given less, but it never says how he felt about it.
- A talent is not a measly sum of money. We're not talking about pennies here.
- He knows that he's been given something valuable, something considerable. Something that he can use.
- God has placed the members, each one of them in the body, just as he desired.
- Every single one of us has a use. Every single one of us has an ability.

## 2 One Talent Too Many to Be Paralyzed by Fear

**Matthew 25:24–27; 2 Timothy 2:15**

- Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. And I was afraid.
- Fear should not be something that paralyzes us. Fear should motivate us to act.
- The slave is not punished for the fact that he feared his master, but he's punished for the fact that in his fear he did nothing.
- We convince ourselves that it's better to bury my talent than to make a mistake. Without realizing that burying my talent is the greatest mistake I can make.
- The key is not to remove fear, the key is to let fear motivate us to work to the best of our ability.
- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

## 3 See, You Have What Is Yours

**Matthew 25:25; Galatians 2:20**

- He justifies his inaction by telling his master that he's getting back what belongs to him.

- By doing nothing, the one talent man robbed his master, because not only did the master own the talent, the master owned the servant.
- All of us have been given at least one talent too many to do nothing, and then claim that God has what is his.
- God doesn't have what's his until I've given what's mine.
- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.
- When I'm freed from sin, I am enslaved to Christ. I am his.

THE CHALLENGE

What have you done with what I gave you? I hope he will not find us with wasted ability covered in soil. But honestly able to say, truly able to say, see, you have what is yours. Because I worked with what is mine.

MY NOTES