



What Does the Parable of the Talents Mean?

Read the parable of the talents in the gospel of Matthew (25:14-30). What do you think the Lord is trying to teach us? Read through the statements below and check the ones you think are true. (It can be helpful to do this before having a group discussion of this parable.)

- Putting your money in the bank is better than burying it in the ground or hiding it under your mattress.
- Evil spirits are bad.
- Everyone is given at least some ability to be useful or helpful.
- Being afraid is a sign of laziness and wickedness.
- People who make lots of money are blessed by the Lord.
- A person who doesn't make an effort to be useful will end up in hell.
- Sometimes our lives are judged in the way or at the time that we don't expect it.
- The quality that the Lord considers the most important in a person is whether he or she tries to be a wisely loving individual.
- A person who does what he can to be useful will be blessed.
- The Lord isn't going to tell us exactly what He expects us to do with our lives.
- Fears can get in the way of us doing what we are capable of.
- Judgments made too soon can cause more harm than good.
- The Lord would never condemn a person for being afraid.
- A person may end up condemned to hell due to his or her response to being afraid
- Don't share things with bad people.

After reflecting on this parable, write a sentence or two about how you could apply it to your life.