



March 21, 2021

“Get Ready ‘cause Here I Come” Part 3 of 3

Matthew 25:14–30

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In the last message in his three-part series, Pastor Gary teaches from Jesus’ parable of the talents. A talent in the Bible is not what many assume it is because it has nothing to do with human ability, but rather it’s a measurement. A biblical talent weighed about seventy-five pounds and it was used as a value for money, either a talent of silver or gold. In the parable, Jesus taught about how we should manage well what he has entrusted to us while he is away. In this teaching we learn that a talent has more to do with the eternal than the practical.

1. The Parable Of The Talents

- a. In Jesus’ day, one talent of silver was worth approximately twenty years of wages.
- b. Pastor Gary said, “[I think] that this parable is the most difficult of the three parables [in this series] to understand and, for that matter, to teach, primarily because most Bible commentaries that you read and sermons that you hear about this parable, tend to only interpret it with an eye on the practical and not on the eternal. Now, it’s not wrong to look at this parable in terms of its practical aspects; in fact, [I’m going to talk about that in my teaching]. [I] do think that if all you do is interpret this parable as a matter of practical advice for everyday Christian living, then you will miss the greater, more important eternal meaning of this parable. And, I say eternal, because we know that it has eternal significance because of the way Jesus [ended the parable in verse thirty]. Now, think for a moment, when you hear the phrases “*outer darkness*” and “*weeping and gnashing of teeth*,” if you have any understanding of the Bible, you know that those are idioms that refer... to hell. There is eternal suffering [and there are consequences in Jesus’ parable]. ... So, whatever Jesus [was] trying to teach us in this parable, it carries an eternal

consequence, which means that if you only look at this parable for its practical advice... you will miss the greater eternal warning that Jesus [had] in mind.”

- i. **Matthew 25:30** - *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

2. Synopsis Of The Parable

- a. The parable is about a wealthy employer.
- b. This man is going on a journey, and while he is gone, he first entrusted his business concerns to servants that he knows can handle the responsibilities.
 - i. **Matthew 25:15** - *“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability...”*
- c. Pastor Gary said, “This is not about preferential treatment. ... This is actually honoring each individual with what they could successfully handle. ... [It] is actually a merciful thing to pass someone over for someone else. ... To entrust a high level of responsibility to someone who lacks the skillset or the job qualifications or the temperament or the desire would crush that individual. If you load up someone with responsibility for which they are not prepared to handle, you are setting them up for failure. ... This is not showing preference; this is showing deference. You are actually respecting the individual for what he or she is able to properly handle, and you are recognizing that in order that they might be the most successful in [a particular] position. This is Leadership 101, folks!”
- d. The employer did not tell the servants how long he would be gone, and he also did not tell them what they were supposed to do with the resources.
 - i. **Matthew 25:15, 19** - *“... and immediately he went on a journey... After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”*
- e. The first servant
 - i. The first servant doubled the talents he was given, and he gave all ten talents to the employer without “taking a cut.”
 - ii. **Matthew 25:21** - *“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ”*
- f. The second servant
 - i. The second servant doubled the two talents he was given, and he gave all four talents to the employer without “taking a cut.”
 - ii. **Matthew 25:23** - *“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ”*
- g. The third servant
 - i. The third servant did nothing with the one talent he was given.

- ii. **Matthew 25:24-28** – *“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ But his lord answered and said, to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.’ ”*
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “[The employer] was not agreeing with this employee’s assessment of himself, he was just simply restating [the employees remarks].”

3. Practical Meaning

- a. Pastor Gary said, “[Jesus is coming again and in the meantime], Jesus the master, has entrusted to us some of his most precious [and] valuable commodities that have to guard, and not only guard, we have to manage these things well. We are the servants in this parable. ... In practicable terms a talent can represent any life resource that God has entrusted to [our] care. I think that there are six major ways that God entrusts to us.”
 - i. Money
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “If you are financially blessed,... are you financially generous for the kingdom?”
 - ii. Abilities
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “Whatever you can do well,... are you doing it well for God?”
 - iii. Authority
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “If you have been put in charge of things,... are you using that authority to promote the kingdom?”
 - iv. Possessions
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “[If you have] resources and possessions that can be used for the kingdom, what are you doing with those resources for the glory of God?”
 - v. Position
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “[If you are a mother, father], grandparent, an employee or an employer, [student, or a teacher], are you using your position or status in life that God has given you to glorify him?”
 - vi. Influence
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, “If God has opened doors for you such that you have opportunity to influence people, whether it’s [a few] or a

lot of people, are you using that influence to impact the kingdom?”

- vii. In summary, what are you doing for God with what God has given you?
 1. Jesus (the Master) owns everything; we (the servants) are managers.
 2. Jesus expects us to use whatever he has entrusted to us for his glory.
 3. Don't be an idle person; we should be busy during the time of waiting and faithful during the delay.
 4. A misunderstood view of God is no excuse.
 5. Where there is no risk for God, there will be no reward from God.
 - a. Pastor Gary said, “Some of you, in a practical way, have the ability to be used by the Lord in various ways, but you just don't want to take the risk, whatever the risk might be. [I want to] challenge you from this parable in practical terms that where there is no risk for God, there is no reward from him.”

4. Eternal Perspective

- a. Some pastors teach this parable in such a way that it's for the purpose of raising money for the church, and some pastors use the parable to shame people into serving in some position in the church.
- b. Pastor Gary said, “If [this parable] is only interpreted in terms of the practical advice, then those people who are teaching it only as a parable about practical advice have a problem with verse thirty because verse thirty is where Jesus [concluded all of this by saying that the last servant will receive an eternal punishment]. ... [If] you only look at this for its practical aspect, you are missing the eternal significance of this parable because for Jesus to end this whole parable with that strong exhortation, that warning, at the end [concerning] eternal consequences, it's got to mean more than just being a good steward or a good manager of the resources that God has given you.”
 - i. [Matthew 25:30](#) - *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- c. Pastor Gary said, “What is the most valuable thing that [Jesus] has left with us, wanting us to cherish and to duplicate? ... It's salvation. It's the Gospel. It's the Good News of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls for whoever believes and receives. [That's] what carries eternal weight in this parable. ... This has to be duplicated; we have to share what he has given us to a lost and dying world.”
 - i. [Matthew 28:19](#) - *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”*
 - ii. [2 Corinthians 4:5-7](#) - *“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who*

said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this **treasure** in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.' (1984 NIV) (Emphasis added)

- iii. **1 Thessalonians 2:4** - *"But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts."* (Emphasis added)
- d. Pastor Gary said, "I'm convinced that a talent in this parable, a treasure, is salvation [or] the Good News of the Gospel. ... [We are to] duplicate it so that when the master returns, he will get a return... the duplication of souls through the advancement of the Gospel. ... The only way to duplicate what he has given us is if Christians are taking what he has left us... and making him known to others. Listen, this is the only explanation as to why the guy with one talent was judged and ultimately sentenced to hell... because he saw God as unmerciful, and so he didn't cherish what God had given him, nor did he duplicate it; he just gave it back. ... The guy who had the one talent had the wrong view of God [and] saw him as unmerciful and rejected the treasure, and he gave back what he had been given."
- e. The early Church, which was made up of the 120 disciples in the Upper Room, were faithful servants, in keeping with the language of the parable, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- f. Pastor Gary said, "God doesn't expect you to be Billy Graham. God expected Billy Graham to be Billy Graham, and God entrusted to Billy Graham immeasurable amounts of "talents" [because] that was his calling, and Billy Graham was faithful to that calling until the day he died. Tens of thousands of people got saved because he was faithful with the talent that God had given him. You just have to be faithful with the talent that God has given you. ... You bloom where you are planted. You serve where you are deployed, nothing more [and] nothing less. [You] still have to be about your Father's business and think about your sphere of influence, the position that God has called you to, what he has given you, and how you can use it to influence, even if it's just one. ... [This] is not a matter of quantity; it's a matter of faithfulness. [God] is calling us to be faithful with the Good News of Jesus Christ that not only saved our souls, but it's something to share with others so that they also might be saved, so that when the master returns, he gets a wonderful return... [The hope is that every single one of us would hear Jesus say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your lord."* "

Discussion Questions

1. Read **Matthew 25:14-30** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.

2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's opening remarks about the ways many pastors teach this parable. (See #1b above)
3. Provide an overview of the synopsis of the parable and the characters and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the ways the employer honored each of the servants by giving them responsibilities that they could handle successfully. (See #2 above)
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the application for Christians concerning the practical meaning of Jesus' parable. (See #3a above)
5. Read and discuss each of the six points in Pastor Gary's outline concerning the things God has entrusted to us.
6. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the eternal perspective we need to have in order to understand Jesus' parable correctly. (See #4b and #4c above)
7. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about feeling inadequate or unqualified to share the Gospel. (See #4d and #4f above)
8. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)