

25th Sunday after Pentecost, 24th Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 11/18 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/19 at 9:00



**Actions
speak
LOUDER
than
words**

Text: **Matthew 25:14-30 NAS 1995**

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On Tuesday of Holy Week, *a few days before He was crucified*, Jesus taught three critical lessons, which are recorded in **Matthew 25**. ALL THREE ARE MEANT TO HELP PEOPLE SEE WHETHER THEY ARE **MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN OR NOT**.

- First teaching – last week: Parable of the Ten Virgins – the wise ones were members; the foolish ones were NOT MEMBERS – *and didn't even know it* (sleeping)!
- Second teaching – today: Parable of the Talents – 3 people are each given a large sum of money, the kingdom members acted with trust, the NON-MEMBER acted with distrust!
- Third teaching – next week: The Sheep and the Goats – all people of all time are grouped into two categories: the ones who acted to help others are members, the ones who did **not** act for others are NOT MEMBERS!

ACTIONS speak LOUDER than words!

1. **Have You Received a Lot?** ¹⁴ ***“For [the kingdom of heaven] is just like a man about to go on a journey, who***

called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.”

- a. What is a talent? A single talent is worth 20 years of labor. At \$50,000 per year, *that is 1 million dollars!*
- b. Did each person receive a significant amount?
Definitely! Five talents = 5 million dollars; two talents = 2 million dollars; and one talent = 1 million dollars!
- c. Have you received a significant amount? The average wage in **1964** was \$2.50/hour (\$5,000/year x 40 years = \$200,000); **now** it is \$29/hour (\$58,000/year x 40 years = \$2.3 million). *We have all received a lot!*

2. **What Does Your Handling Say About Your Kingdom Membership Status?** ¹⁶ “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.” //

- a. Our possessions are NOT ours to own, but to manage: We ➔ receive them, ➔ manage them, and ➔ leave them behind when we die.
- b. Everybody is in one of two categories:
 - i. **Category 1:** We ➔ know Jesus (John 17:3) and ➔ manage our possessions according to God’s word, *which points to our kingdom membership.*
 - ii. **Category 2:** We ➔ do **not** know Jesus and ➔ do whatever we want with our possessions, *which shows that we are **not** kingdom members.*

Summary: If your actions are pointing out your non-member status, the answer is **not** to change your giving, *BUT TO REPENT!* Right giving comes from a repentant heart!

3. **What Will Jesus Say to You When He Returns?**¹⁹ **“Now after a long time [during the NT era] the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.”** // These words are pointing to the day of Jesus’ return.
- a. **Five – You Acted with Trust:**²⁰ **“The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’**²¹ **“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”** // His action pointed to his repentant heart and kingdom membership!
- b. **Two – You Acted with Trust:**²² **“Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’**²³ **“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”** // His action pointed to his repentant heart and kingdom membership!
- c. **One – You Acted with Distrust:**²⁴ **“And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.**²⁵ **And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is**

yours.” // His **INACTION** pointed to his UNREPENTANT HEART and LACK OF KINGDOM MEMBERSHIP!

- i. **You Are Wicked and Lazy:** ²⁶ **“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.’** ²⁷ **Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.”** // *Jesus sees every heart: “wicked” and “lazy” point to his unrepentant heart.*
- ii. **Take What I Gave:** ²⁸ **“Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.”** // *Those who continue in unrepentance will lose everything forever!*
- iii. **Punish Him Forever:** ³⁰ **“Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** // *Do not be deceived, this text is NOT about giving but about being repentant. When Jesus returns, it will be too late for anyone to repent!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, You gave **everything** to open the kingdom of heaven – **TYSVM!** For those currently repentant, *keep them repentant!* For the others, ✦convict them and ✦save them – so their actions clearly show that they are members of the kingdom of heaven!

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