

# DON'T BE LIKE JUDAS... HE HEARD BUT... HE DID NOT HEAR!!!

As I was studying the Word, I came across this particular parable. It was one of the last ones that Jesus gave to His disciples. He gave it to those who were very close to Him – the 12 original disciples. There may have been a few

others with them but it was actually given to those 12 who would be called to bring the Kingdom of God to the world once Jesus had left and gone back to the Father in heaven.

Unfortunately, as we know, one of those 12, Judas, would be the one who would betray Jesus. He would then kill himself. Never the less, Jesus still gave this parable to all of the 12, including Judas. Judas, would hear all of Jesus' teachings. Yet, he still chose to follow his own agenda which, as we know, was ultimately the devil's agenda. In many ways this parable is about him and it is about many others who are in the Body of Christ, today.

The parable I am referring to is known as the "Parable of the Talents." This was not the same parable that Jesus gave earlier in His ministry. The other parable given the same title is found in Luke 19:12-17. The principles and even the wording **may appear** to be similar, however, it is not the same and it has a very **different** purpose and message than the parable in Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus gave this parable in the same context as the parable just before it, Matthew 25:1-13, "*The Parable of the Five Wise Virgins and the Five Foolish Virgins.*" Actually, Jesus was in "teaching mode" because He began this time of teaching His disciples just after they left Jerusalem and two days prior to the Last Supper and ultimately His crucifixion. We read of this in Matthew 26:1,2 - "*And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.*"

We see that Jesus was with His disciples on the Mount of Olives. He was responding to their questions concerning the end times. Jesus had just told them of the end times as we see in Matthew 24. Jesus continued to teach them by giving them a list of parables. It was in the midst of these parables that, the "Parable of the Talents," was given to His disciples and to us, today.

We know that the last three of His parables given by Jesus were to emphasize the importance of being a true believer and a true disciple of His. They were given to those 12 disciples so that they

would be very much aware that the "end times" would one day be coming and that they needed to be ready and they would need to tell all believers to always be ready. As His disciples, they were not only to be watchful of His return but they were to be "occupying" and doing the works of the Kingdom and bringing others into relationship with Him and the Father.

By "works" He did not just mean healing, and other signs and wonders. He meant that they were truly to be His ambassadors in their **character and lifestyle of love, grace and mercy**. We must realize that as we read this time of teaching, that it was not only for those 12 disciples at that time but this teaching is for all of His disciples, even for us today.

Let's read this "Parable of the Talents" found in Matthew 25:14-30. I know it is a little long but, please, bear with me - *"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came, and reckoned with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou gave unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou gave unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

In this parable the "man" (representative of Jesus) who was going to "leave for a while" gave these three servants a measure of "**his goods**." (Matthew 25:14) We can get confused because we see that the wording changes from "**his goods**" to the use of the word "**talents**."

The "man" in this parable, as we mentioned, represents Jesus. Notice the "man" gave his servants of "**his goods**." This is showing us that anything we do or have has absolutely nothing to do with what we can or cannot do within our own ability. It is Jesus who gives to **His** servants (His disciples) **His** "goods" (the "talents") to use for **His** purposes.

The "traditional view" in thinking of these "talents" is erroneously thought of in the natural sense in terms of such things as music, singing, evangelizing, preaching, being gifted in business or administration, etc. Yes, these are "God given abilities" but **they are not** what Jesus is referring to within this parable.

We see that all three "servants" were given the same "kind" of "talent," although in differing quantities. Remember, the "talents" were from the "man's goods." Jesus was referring to "**His goods**," which meant those things that He owned within Himself. He was actually referring to those "goods" that are found within **His lifestyle**, such as love, mercy, gentleness, goodness, kindness, peace, faithfulness, long suffering, self control, etc.

When Man was created, God had given His highest form of creation, everything that He was. Man was created in God's image and likeness. He was created with God's character and nature. Unfortunately, with the "fall" and now with a sinful nature, this God given character with all of its Godlike characteristics, has been perverted and tainted.

God in His infinite love, chose to reveal and express a "way" of restoring this "character and nature" to Mankind through a people known as the Jewish nation. The "way" of restoration that He gave them was through His commandments and precepts that were meant to help guide them back onto the right path until Messiah would come. We know that they could not fulfill these commandments and precepts because of their sinful nature. Actually, God knew that no one could ever keep these commandments.

Yes, God in His infinite wisdom, knew that no man could ever fulfill and keep all of His ways. Man would never be good enough and therefore, all of mankind would be destined for hell. But Jesus... Yes, it is only through Jesus that man could be saved from hell. Man could never fulfill all of the sacrificial aspects and all of the moral aspects of the Law.

That is why Jesus came. He fulfilled all of the animal sacrifices through His death on the cross. He was the "Final Sacrifice." Man could also never fulfill all of the moral aspects of the Law. Only through having faith in Jesus as the Son of God, could God now look upon man as having been able to fulfill the moral aspects of the Law, as well. Jesus has given all of mankind the availability to be brought back into relationship with God. We just need to choose to accept what He did for us.

This is what Jesus meant by being His true believers. We are to believe in all that He did. At the time of this parable, Jesus did not complete it all - but He was about to. Would His disciples get what He was trying to teach them? Will we get what He is trying to teach us?

We must grasp the fact that God's ultimate purpose is to bring people to understand that He loves them and that He wants them to "come home" to Him and His Kingdom. In this parable, Jesus uses these three servants to represent all those who "say" that they have chosen to follow Him. The key here is the fact that all three "said" that they were true believers in Jesus.

Hmmm.... We will see...

In this parable, Jesus was expressing that even though He may be leaving, there will come a time that **He will return**. In the mean time, until that time of His return, anyone who "professes" that they are His disciples will be given "His goods." Those "goods" were the aspects of His character or we can say they are the aspects of the "fruit of the Holy Spirit" that the true believer will have. (Galatians 5:22,23) These "goods" were to be given so that His true believers would have the ability to represent Jesus and His lifestyle to all those upon this earth.

They would represent Him through expressing the lifestyle of His character and personality. It was to be expressed to others upon the earth. It would happen by "birthing" new disciples while Jesus is "away"—in heaven waiting to return. The "talents" of this parable can be looked upon as the different aspects of the lifestyle of every believer. They are the "moments of opportunity" that are given to each of His "servants" to express the true character that is within them as disciples of Jesus to this world. They may also express the use of the spiritual gifts when and as needed.

In this parable, we see that Jesus understands that everyone is different. He gives each one the opportunity to reveal what is truly in their heart concerning being a disciple of Jesus as He gives them **His goods**, "...to every man according to his several ability..." (Matthew 25:15) Jesus gives to those who "**say**" they are His "servants" the ability to express what is truly the attitude of their heart towards Him and who He really is within their heart. Is He truly their Lord (their absolute, supreme and final authority in their life) or is He not?

We see that two of the "servants" did express this lifestyle and both received their "reward." However, the most telling aspect of their reward and what really expresses Jesus' main thought in this parable is found in Matthew 25: 21, 23, as He declares "... *Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of **thy lord.***" Remember, the term, "**thy lord,**" as we discuss now the third "servant."

This third servant came and gave account. Instead of giving an account and taking full responsibility for his actions, notice, he blamed his master. He expressed his **true attitude of heart** concerning his master. In Matthew 25:24, 25, the third servant told the "master" exactly what was in his heart. We can say that out of the abundance his heart, his mouth spoke.

This third "servant" tells Him, "...*Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*" The "man" (Jesus) in the parable repeated the "servant's" words in a "sarcastic way, - "*Oh so you knew that I was...*"

The truth of the matter was that this "servant" **did not really know his master** nor did he know his master's heart. This person who lived in the midst of true servants, those who knew and loved their master, thought he could get away with just being with the other servants and "kind of just blend in" without being a true faithful servant. Jesus was saying that it doesn't work that way. Every heart will be exposed. Wow!!!

We must realize that if we are true servants of the most High God our lives are to be all about the Father and Jesus. In this parable we see that as Jesus is "away," all those who **call themselves** His "servants" are given the opportunity to give "His goods," His salvation to others. If they are truly His disciples, they will use those "opportunities" given by the Master, to express His character to the lost of this earth as His "ambassadors." Those who truly know Jesus as their Lord, will be faithful onto Him and use those "God given opportunities" to glorify Jesus and the Father simply because Jesus is truly, "**thy Lord.**"

The third "servant," who we now know was **never ever truly** a "servant," just a pretend servant, never really "knew" his Lord. **He did not know Jesus.** We see this in Matthew 5:27 as Jesus expresses this same thought when he said of those that "boast" of the wonderful things **they did** "in His Name." However, He told them "*depart from me for I never knew you*" which also meant that they never ever truly knew Him. Remember, it is not the works...it is the heart that matters.

Unfortunately, as we read, Jesus was never this third man's Lord. This man just played the game, thinking that he could be in two worlds at the same time. The result was that he was thrown into, "*outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

Whether this man, was pretending to be a child of God or he chose to simply reject Jesus but wanted the blessings that comes through Jesus, we are not made aware. The fact of the matter was that he was not a true child of God – he was not saved and Jesus was not his Lord. The truth **will be revealed**. You can not fake your way into the Kingdom of God. It will be exposed.

We all must realize that soon the time for Jesus' return will come. The time of true judgment will be brought forth. Those who know God, through Jesus, will "go to the right" into paradise. Those who don't, will "go to the left," into the eternal Lake of Fire. Every person's true heart and motives will be revealed.

In this parable, as well as all of these last parables that Jesus taught, we see that the end times will ultimately come. We must remember that Judas had heard all of these parables but His heart was truly deceived in his own ways and his own thinking. The devil had kept him in darkness with his own thoughts and ideas of the how the Kingdom of God would come. He was a prime example of the third man in this parable. We must take heed!!!

Do many of us have those same thoughts, ideas and concepts? Or, are you simply going to believe what the Bible tells you and that settle's it for you. I know that "*as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" (Joshua 24:15) That is great for me to say, but the truth is that everyone in "my house" is old enough to make their own decisions but I must stand fast for the things of God.

I pray for all those who were in my house; for all my children and their children; for my sister and brothers and their families. I pray that as many as possible will hear the truth of God's Word and receive it and believe it. I believe that many do know the truth but, unfortunately, many do not. God desires none to perish but all to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus. Will they all be saved? I pray they will be. Will all your family be saved? I pray they will be.

The truth of the matter is that the time is getting shorter and shorter. The devil is pouring out his lies and deceptions greater and greater in this hour. We must stand for the truth and we must, as the first two people did in this parable, use our God's "goods" (talents) well – in our own lives and then to tell others about the goodness of our God so that they will accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord and become a Child of God.

This parable was given just before Jesus gave His final parable, "The Parable of the Separating of the Sheep from the Goats." That parable is simply telling us that there will ultimately be a time of separating those who truly love God from those who are simply "playing the game."

Jesus lays it out there for all to see and hear. Judas was right there with Jesus. He heard but he didn't hear. Jesus said it many times, "*Those that have ears to hear, let them hear.*" Will people "hear and believe?" Do each of us truly **hear and believe** what Jesus is telling us?

Hmmm..... I pray so!!!