

The Parable of the Talents
Morning Star Chapel
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(TITLE SLIDE 1)

(RECITATION 2)

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

AC: 2954

"And unto one he gave five talents,
to another two, and to another one;
to every man according to his
several ability." (Matthew 25: 15)

Introduction

People who are paying attention to their
thoughts and feelings understand that the
mind is divided into two parts: the **will**, and

the **understanding**. A part of our mind is used to understand things and the other part is where we decide if we are going to do the things we understand. There are examples of this all over the place in our lives....we all understand if we eat right and exercise regularly we will be healthier. But understanding is not doing is it? We all understand that if we are kind and loving to our spouse we have a better marriage but do we always practice it...No! Why not? The Word has the answer....

With mankind, overtime, the will part of our mind was destroyed(895, 927, 2124) through hereditary evil and the actual evils we have taken on in this life. We are told it “delights in nothing but evil”... And we can see this when we feel delight at somebody else’s loss or when we get over on somebody else especially if the person bothers us! This “old will” needs to be replaced with a “new will”.

Everyone who is willing to change, to break free from the grip of the “old will”...the love of self and the world... who wants to be a

good person, is given gifts of faith and charity (AC 2967:2) from the Lord according to their current state. These are called remains. The Lord adapts these gifts to fit our spiritual condition. These gifts sit quietly in our mind waiting for us go into the battles of temptation. When we are willing to fight the things that tempt us in this world, the loves of self and the world tone down to a dull roar! Only then can an affection for good and truth begin flow into our mind.... these are the means for true happiness.

Notice the difference between pleasure and happiness. Pleasure is going on vacation or doing something you love to do....happiness comes by an internal way...by developing a love for following the precepts that we have all learned from childhood, and trusting that the Lord has a plan for us.

The evils we are carrying in the will are actually removed to the side by the Lord when we learn the Divine truths from the Word and apply them into the uses of our life. (SLIDE

3) Let me say that again: **The evils we are**

carrying are actually removed to the side by the Lord when we learn the Divine truths from the Word and apply them into the uses of our life. (AE 675:9).

Just like being healthy and having a good marriage are not just about knowing....but doing...getting a new “heavenly will” is about doing! This is the Lord’s message to us in the parable of the talents.

14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And

to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

That “Man” with the hired servants is the Lord Himself! He came on earth to give us the Word... And by all appearances He left. But He left behind the truths from the Word. He makes all the provisions necessary for our regeneration, each according to our own individual needs. He withdraws from us the consciousness of His Divine presence, even to

the extent that it appears as if He does not exist! This is necessary, so that we may be in freedom-that we may live and act as of ourselves...by our own choices, and as if by our own efforts. It is this freedom that allows us to decide if we want to conjoin reciprocally with the Lord.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

The master's return from his journey to take an accounting of his servants, represents

the last judgment we must all go through in the other life before we find our final home there.

This judgment is effected by the Lord's approaching each of us, now a spirit, and now conscience of the Divine Sphere. How we react to that divine sphere determines where we will go. Those who have wisely used the truths from the Word receive Him joyfully at His coming, and are raised by Him into heaven; but they who have abused or ignored those truths are distressed by the Divine sphere, and separate themselves from it.

A talent was money... a weight in silver.

Like truths, money can be acquired by anybody... anybody can learn truths. And money is not good or evil... But it's what we do with that money how we perform uses with it, how we take His truths into our life and use them that makes us a good or bad person. Everybody has an equal opportunity for regeneration but each has a different capacity to learn the truth. These different capacities are recognized in the parable by the servants

being given varying numbers of talents, each according to his ability.

16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. **17** And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also.

It is only by **using** truths that we develop an affection for the them... George, a friend of mine, took one of the truths in the Word... “loving the neighbor, literally! He described to me his neighbor who was getting fined \$1000 by her homeowners association for not keeping

her yard up. Because of her disability she was unable to do physical work... without a word, at 70 years old and a bad back, George mowed her lawn, raked her leaves, put down pine straw, all of which were demanded in the homeowners association letter. The neighbor did everything she could to thank him, brought him tons of water, moved as much as she could out of the way, thanked him continuously. He refused to rest and he refused money... but instead of feeling exhausted... when he

finished... he said he felt 10 years younger! “it just felt so good to help her.”

It is only in doing that we develop an affection for the truth and feel the joy of our Lord. This is how we become intelligent and wise. And what does the Lord say to this “love in action?”

“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.”

24 “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. **25** And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours.*’

What is it to hide our talent?.....when we hide our talent we know the truths in the Word and we have them in the store house of our memory... But we never take them out... We leave them buried in the understanding... represented by the ground. In order to be

brought to life truths must be taken out of the memory, examined and thought about, and received into the will or intention, and put into act! For we read

"those who are in spiritual affection are interested in the Word, and desire nothing more earnestly than to understand it" (A. E. 112)

26 "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. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming

I would have received back my own with interest. 28 Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

In the other life, we discover in the *Apocalypse Revealed*(AE 675), that those who have possessed truths in their understanding...and put them into their will or life, enrich themselves in intelligence to eternity! But those who possess truths only in

the memory, but do not apply them to their life, are deprived of the truths they have and sent into “outer darkness” or hell, where there is “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” We read

those in evils of life will lose their knowledge of good and truth, lest they communicate with heaven and disturb its sanctities (AC 4424).

If we are to become profitable servants... that the Lord seeks to fill the heavens with... we must acquire knowledges from the Word, think about how we will apply those trues in our life, and **moving to action!** It is only

through action that when the time is right, we will hear the Lord say to each of us. (SLIDE 4)

‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ (Matthew 25:21)

Amen. Let us pray

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[2] The reasons why have been stated in various places already - that spiritual people possess no will at all for what is good, but instead have been provided with an ability to understand what good is. **The understanding of what is good is primarily called truth, and indeed the truth of faith, while the willing of it and from this the doing of it is called good.**

Spiritual persons therefore, by means of an understanding of good, or what amounts to the same, **by means of truth**, are led on to a will

for what is good, or what amounts to the same, to good. They are not led on to any will for what is good from anything that is their own, since all will for what is good has with them been destroyed, 895, 927, 2124. Instead they are led on to a **new will** which they receive from the Lord, 863, 875, 1023, 1043, 1044; and when they have received this new will they specifically are called the redeemed.

(References: [Genesis 23:13](#))