

Parable of the Talents

How Do You Think God Feels About You?

WEEK 6

OVERVIEW

1. How do I feel about myself?
2. What talents has God given me?
3. How do I feel about God?

OPENING QUESTION

How do you think God feels about you?

INTRODUCTION

The Parable of the Talents is a story about how God believes in us, invests in us, and helps us to live up to our potential by making an incredible difference with our lives. Whether or not we believe this about God will impact the way we live.

1. HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT MYSELF?

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.”

– **Matthew 25:14-15 NIV84**

- **God believes in us.** The Parable of the Talents is a story about God entrusting his property to his servants. He must have believed in them.
- **Our view of ourselves is important too.** If the servants were plagued with insecurity and negativity, they wouldn't have been able to appreciate and invest the gifts God had given them.

Pause and reflect

- Are you honest about how you feel about yourself?
- How does your view of yourself affect how you see God?

Parable of the Talents

How Do You Think God Feels About You?

WEEK 6

NOTES

2. WHAT TALENTS HAS GOD GIVEN ME?

"The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

*"After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, **you gave me** two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'*

"The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

– Matthew 25:17-19, 22-23 NLT

- **God brings out talents we never knew we possessed.** When entrusted with the master's money, the two-talent servant discovered a level of faithfulness he might not have otherwise known he had.
- **Don't compare yourself to others.** This servant could have easily been self-focused and jealous of the five-talent servant, but instead, he focused on what he did have and not what he didn't have.

Pause and reflect

- Everyone has talents. Everyone has gifts. What are yours? How could you use those talents to help others?

NOTES

3. HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT GOD?

"Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'

"But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away."

- Matthew 25:24-27, 29 NLT

- **Do you trust God?** Both the five- and two-talent servants immediately went to work and doubled their talents. What motivated them to work hard and take risks? The master later says they did this because of their faithfulness to him. They trust the master and have the courage to take risks to grow.
- **Do you have a correct view of God?** The master must have also known that the one-talent servant had the ability to double his money. However, the one-talent servant immediately dug a hole and hid his master's money. His reasoning was that his master was harsh, demanding, and unscrupulous, which made him afraid.
- **Was the master actually harsh and difficult to please?** What do you notice in his interactions with the other two servants?
- **Make sure your view of God matches the Bible:** Go to the Bible to find out what it says about God rather than relying on your own experiences or preconceived notions.
 - Psalm 18:35 NCV God is willing to stoop down and make us great.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:11 NIV Like a father, God helps us live our best lives.
- **A negative view of God results in playing it safe** and not having faith to take risks. If our view of God doesn't match the Bible, we will end up letting fear run our lives rather than faith. We won't use the talents God has given us, and will miss out on the way our relationship with God could grow if we were to decide to trust him.

Parable of the Talents

How Do You Think God Feels About You?

WEEK 6

NOTES

3. HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT GOD? (CONT'D)

Pause and reflect

- How is your view of God stopping you from investing and multiplying the gifts he has given you?
- Sometimes, our true talents are hidden because we choose to stick with talents that make us feel secure or make other people happy. What fears are holding you back from finding or developing new talents?

Wrapping up

Most of us will never receive a sum of money to invest as we choose, but all of us have an ability or gift from God that we can grow over our lifetime. How we do that depends on how we view and trust in God.

Now to the God who can do so many awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us.

– **Ephesians 3:20 Voice**