

## God's Calling Requirements Part 42

### The Parable of the Talents

*“14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 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. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 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. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 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. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 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: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 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. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:14-30 KJV)*

This is another parable that the Lord Jesus Christ shared with His disciples, before He suffered and died on the cross for our sins. He spoke it about His return and how He will judge us according to what we had done with what He entrusted to us. In *Matthew 25* Jesus spoke about His second coming and about His judgment in three parables and the parable of the talents is one of them. The talents describe what God has entrusted to us, what Jesus had given to us before He went to Heaven; the blessings that He wants us to use for His glory and for the benefit of the people around us whom God has placed under our care, and we will be judged at His second coming or when we die, or at any time according to how we had used the talents that God entrusted to us. The talents can be the following:

**A. The talents can be our lives, bodies and souls:** God had given you life and your life is not for you but it is for God. Many they say, It is my life and I will do what I like to do. But that is not correct, your life belong to God and you cannot do what you want or what you like, because you need to do what God wants you to do. You cannot study what you want, or marry what you like, or buy what you want, or live the style that you like, or travel where you want, or work what you like, because simply your life and you body and soul is for God and you cannot do with them what you like. God had given us each body and soul so we need to care

for them; we need to take proper food and sleep and have rest and care for our souls and live in a suitable atmosphere away from temptations, to continue to serve God. You must go along His plan and do God's will and not your will and plan. The three men in the parable are called servants, *“14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.” (Matthew 25:14 KJV)* Everyone one of us supposed to be God's servant and we supposed to be good steward of what God had entrusted into our lives. God had placed each and every one of us in certain places, in certain positions, and in certain relations with people and expect from us to do things according to His Word will and plan.

**B. The talents can be the time available for us:** God's desire for us is to use this time fruitfully. There are 24 hours in a day. God wants us to use the hours of the day fruitfully. From the time we wake up till we retire to bed, we need to receive a clear program from God of what we need to do. We should not be aimless and without goals and neither should we waste time. There is a time factor for each day and there is an age factor for man's activity and achievement. When we are young, we have much energy and we should not waste it because when we are old we will not be able to do the things we did when we were young. Time is equal money; if you waste it then you are wasting money. Time is a sword if you will not handle it well it will cut you. If you waste your time then you are destroying your life and making it unfruitful. You need to keep time to work, time to sleep and rest, time to serve God, time with your family, time to study, time to pray, time to read the Bible, time to fast, time to evangelize, and time to help people. You need to avoid wasting time with friends, Media, News, games, gossips, fights, unnecessarily trips and movements so you can be fruitful and do completely what had assigned for you to do. Value the time in your life, use it appropriately and stop wasting it.

**C. The talents can be the skills and the talents that God has given us:** Our professional skills, our various talents that our bodies carries from birth, the languages we speak, our sound scientific knowledge and the ability to learn and use technology are to be employed for the extension of God's Kingdom. *All what you have of these they are talents and you needed to use them for God's glory to serve Him and to serve people in serving God's purpose in your life.* We read in *Matthew 25:15*, the words several ability *“to every man according to his several ability;”* it means every one of us has several and not one ability. We read also in *Matthew 25:16*, the word traded, *“Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same,”* it means we need to use them and to employ them all into the Kingdom of God.

**D. The talents can be the material possessions that He has given us:** The Lord has blessed us with jobs, salaries, wealth and assets, capitals, lands, houses, buildings, cars, farms, animals, jewels, silver and gold and many other things that need to be used for His glory and for the name of Jesus to be lifted up. *God wants you to use the money given you wisely. You need to work to earn. You need to tithe your income and you need to spend on your needs. You need not to waste your money. You need to save one fifth of your income. You need to keep some money to help the poor, you need to give offering to God, you need to work out to pay your firstfruits and that is why you need to be wise in budgeting your money. The same for other materials things that you need to use what God give you wisely and employ them for His service and ministry.*

**E. The talents can be the spiritual gifts that He has given us:** These are gifts that God has given us after we received Christ and got baptized with the Holy Spirit. The following are the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, gift of faith, gift of healings, gift of working miracles, gift of giving, showing mercy, gifts of helps, leadership, administration, gift of exhorters, pastors, teachers, prophets, and evangelists. **He gave us different gifts to build up the body of Christ, to train the saints and equip them. These gifts are to be used to serve people for the common good, and to bring honor and glory to God.** The spiritual gifts are not to be used for monetary benefits or as a meal ticket. The church should not allow such misconduct. Some preachers move from church to church to gain finances for every session of preaching. There are those who prophesy and predict the future and those who do miracles and earn money. There are those who seek churches to pay them for their talents and services and use their God-given gifts with the wrong motive and purpose. These contradict the great commission of the Lord. **Therefore we need to use these gifts to go and preach the gospel and make disciples as Jesus commanded us. “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20 KJV)** We should not make money as a goal in God’s service and we should not allow money to be a hindrance to us to serve, and we need to be willing to spend whenever we need to do that.

God has given to every one of us at least a portion of the above-mentioned talents. Some have received much; others have little, **“to every man according to his several ability”.** **You cannot say that you received nothing; God had giving you certain things and you need to be accountable to what you received.** Jesus, in the parable of the talents, describes how the Lord, who is Jesus Himself, had entrusted His servants with certain talents before He left on His journey. When He came back, He settled accounts with them. **“19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.” (Matthew 25:19 KJV)** At any time we might be called to give an account to God, either at Christ second coming, or at our death, or even at any time during our life, and will be judged, therefore we need to be ready to be judged according to what we received and what we had done. About the value of one talent, some they say that the talent is equal to 30 kilogram and others say it is equal to 60 kilogram. **Whatever the talent is composed from, for example silver, even if you have received one talent then minimum you had received thirty kilograms of silver, if five then 150 kilograms, and that is not a small thing especially at the time of Jesus and you can do lot of things with it. So again you cannot say that you received nothing.** The servant who had received five talents brought another five and the one who received two had also doubled his portion. **So what we can conclude here that God wants us to have 100% increases to what God had given to us.**

But the servant who got one talent failed his Lord as we read: **“24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.” (Matthew 25:24-25 KJV)** He did nothing good of what he had received. **You will be judged if you received and you are not willing to give, to share or to do what God expects from you.**

Why this servant did not use what God had given him? What hindered him from being effective in doing God’s work and to bear fruit? As we analyze what he said to the Lord and what the Lord had said to him, we will know what made that servant and what might make us

ineffective in using the talent that God has given: **“26 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: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.” (Matthew 25:26-27 KJV)**

**1. Laziness or slothfulness:** Here we are taught in the parable that lazy people will be judged for their sin of laziness, that God will take from them what He gave them and will end up in hell. **Therefore we admonish such people to repent.** Let us know, to delay, to postpone, and to embrace sleep more than necessary will rob us of the time that God has given us. **“30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. 33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” (Proverbs 24:30-34 KJV)** Here we learn from this proverb that God had given us good things and good resources, and so if we will not use them wisely and diligently and waste time by sleeping, not working and keep postponing, then there will be no fruit, instead thorns and nettles and broken walls which indicate losses and damages because of laziness. God wants us to be diligent in our lives. We need to spend more time in prayer, more time in reading the Bible, which is the Word of God, and meditate on it. Many have lost a lot of what God had given them because of laziness and lack of diligence. Many Scriptures admonish and speak against laziness and teach us how laziness and slothfulness or being a sluggard would ruin our lives.

**A. “6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8 KJV)** Here we are called to take heed of the good example of the ant to pick up and collect things and store them so we can use them at proper time to meet our needs. **To those who are lazy receive these rebukes: “9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.” (Proverbs 6:9-11 KJV)**

**B. “4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.” (Proverbs 14:4 KJV)** Here we are taught that only hard work can bring to us plentiful resources and the blessings of God.

**C. “4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4 KJV)** Here we are taught that only diligent works can satisfy our needs and desires.

**D. “24 A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.” (Proverbs 19:24 KJV)** Lazy people are not willing to help themselves even to meet their essential needs.

**E. “13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.” (Proverbs 22:13 KJV)** Lazy people have good stories, excuses and justifications to escape from hard work but at the end will have nothing. **“4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of**

*the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.” (Proverbs 20:4 KJV) “13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.” (Proverbs 26:13, 16 KJV) The third servant who received one talent said to the Lord the following: “25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.” (Matthew 25:25 KJV) That was his excuse and his way to cover his laziness. He did not do anything with what God had given to him. He went and dug in the ground and burry what God had given to Him. Even the Lord told him that at least he should put in the bank and get some interest on it so he can give to his Lord: “27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.” (Matthew 25:27 KJV) That is why we put our money in time deposit in banks to receive some interest. **Lazy workers even small things they will not do. At least go and pray, go and give Bible study, go and invite somebody, help someone and give him the gospel.***

**F. “14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. 15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.” (Proverbs 26:14-15 KJV) So lazy person always on bed and is lazy even not to use his hand to put the food in his own mouth.**

**G. “25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.” (Proverbs 21:25 KJV) Lazy people cannot achieve things and they die longing for they cannot meet their desires because they are lazy and don’t want to work.**

**H. “49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” (Ezekiel 16:49 KJV) One of the sins of Sodom was idleness and unwillingness to work because of plenty of bread that was available to them. Even though the Lord has blessed us with plenty of provisions, we still need to work and play our part in the life of the church and in the life of the society.**

**2. Wickedness:** Living a sinful life makes us unfruitful people. Craftiness, the shrewdness of the world, and corruption will make us ineffective. Whatever success people may taste at the beginning employing their crooked ways and practices, they will finally be exposed and will face the consequences of using the evil devices they employed. **Envy, jealousy, lust, immoralities, telling lies, stealing, cheating, abusing, taking advantage, fights, anger, quarrels, non forgiveness, selfishness, pride, arrogance, and whatever sin you allow in your life will turn you ineffective in your service and ministry unto God.**

**3. Lack of knowledge:** When the lazy wicked servant came to give an account to his Lord, he said: “24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:” (Matthew 25:24 KJV), he thought that he knew his Lord when he said, “**I knew thee**”, but in reality, he didn’t know his Lord well. Many times we think we know God and His ways, but in reality, we don’t know Him well and that makes us ineffective servants. God said, “**6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**” (Hosea 4:6 KJV) **So, how are we going to overcome this lapse in the knowledge of God? The only way is by reading the Bible regularly. Let us daily read God’s Word, meditate on it and apply it in our lives. The Word of God is the way to**

**know the will of our Lord. Therefore we are accountable to reach the members with God’s Word and get every member, especially the new believers, to be a part of a Bible study group in which God’s Word is explained well and everyone’s spiritual needs are met.**

**4. Self-righteous and blaming others even the Lord: “24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:” (Matthew 25:24 KJV) That servant instead that he will repent and humble down and confess and accept his sin he was blaming the Lord and sometimes they blame the church and the pastor that they are hard, unjust, difficult, and accusing others of bad things as that servant accused God, “reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed”; they are very good in telling lies and making stories to excuse themselves and cover their sins and put the blame on others.**

The Lord rebuked that lazy wicked servant and judged him based on what he failed to do and of what evil he said. The Lord rebuked him and before He judged his sin he showed what he did not do. “**26 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: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.**” (Matthew 25:26-27 KJV) In the same way God is able to rebuke you and show you your wrongdoings and what you failed to do for God, therefore be earnest and repent because judgment is coming. God may judge us in the same manner while we are still on earth, and in the final judgment when He will return. The message today is a warning for you to repent and amend your ways.

**“28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 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.” (Matthew 25:28-29 KJV) To the unfaithful servant God shall take away from him and give to the faithful servant who will have more. Judgment is coming on the way so be earnest and repent. Judgment shall start in the house of God, and be upon those wicked servants who are lazy, unfaithful, doing their own will and having their own understanding; God shall take from them what He had given them and they will go into sadness where they will cry and weep for what they lost, “30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:30 KJV) and they will loss eternity and end up in hell if they will not repent. But God will reward also the righteous. “23 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.” (Matthew 25:23 KJV) God needs us to be good and faithful servants then He will add to us and make us rulers over many things as we continue to be faithful to God. We will receive from Him the good commendation and will live in joy and eternity entering into the joy of our Lord.**

**My dear and beloved:** The message today is a good reminder and warning for us to check ourselves. We need to desire to hear from Jesus when He returns or even now in our service and ministry when we are judged, the words, “**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.**” **You need to humble yourselves, watch your life, and accept correction from Him and from His church. You need to be motivated with the reward that He promised to those who faithfully serve Him. Let us be motivated today as servants of God with the rewards that He promised to those who are good and faithful and continue to serve Him.**



Come now to God, repent of all your sins and wrongdoings and commit yourself to serve God and be good and faithful to what He entrusted to you being good steward of your resources managing them according to His Word and His will. Let us pray ....

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly your ways and your will. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that I received in this message. Lord thank you for all the motivation that I received in this message and all the good things and the rewards that I received from you.*

*Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins and commit yourself to serve Him. Confess and renounce all the works of the flesh in your life; telling lies, deceiving, cheating, stealing, abuse, taking advantage, fights, anger, rage, hatred, revenge, un-forgiveness, grudge and bitterness, division, pride, selfishness, lack of concern toward others, envy, jealousy, murder, lust, immoralities, greed, injustice, corruption, worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Renounce grieving, lying, insulting and causing the Holy Spirit to envy. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your non willingness to pass through persecution. Confess and renounce your flatteries, compromises, corruption and injustice. Confess and renounce all your stubbornness, disobedience and delay obedience. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and the doubts in your mind. Confess and renounce that you are doing your own will and plans and not the will of God and His plan in your life. Confess and renounce your unfaithfulness, ungratefulness, complaining and grumbling. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and life of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, wasting your resources, lack of tithing and giving to God, your laziness, your complacency your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to the message that I received today, to be good and faithful servant, grateful to you and start to serve you and be good steward for my life, body and soul, time, resources, talents and spiritual gifts, and good example to others to follow you. Lord I commit myself to live according to your will and the good plan that you have for me. Lord, I commit myself to be a fruitful and productive person in your Kingdom. Uphold me with your grace and provide for me to continue to serve you.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and committed their lives to live for you and to serve you. Lord I pray for them to be changed by you to do your work and to be fruitful and faithful in what you had entrusted to them. Lord protect them, provide for them and give them good health and strength to accomplish their ministry and the assignments that you entrusted to them.*

*Lord I pray for us as a Church of God that we will continue to be faithful to you; serving you wholeheartedly and using all resources fruitfully and making the most of all the opportunities. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach your people to be good steward, and direct them according to your Word, will and your plans for them. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more Bible studies to be planted and more workers to be trained. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will*

*not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

God's Calling Requirements Part 42. The Parable of the Talents. Matthew 25:14-30. Matthew 28:18-20. Proverbs 24:30-34. Proverbs 6:6-11. Proverbs 14:4. Proverbs 13:4. Proverbs 19:24. Proverbs 22:13. Proverbs 20:4. Proverbs 26:13-16. Proverbs 21:25. Ezekiel 16:49. Hosea 4:6.

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