

Bucket Talk – Success

Week 7

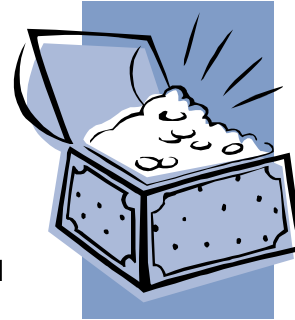
Success: a sense of ‘turning out well’, to have a favorable result, to advance. To maximize your TALENT to the best of your ability.

“Success is always striving to be the person that God wants you to be and accomplishing the goals that God has helped you set”. - Author unknown

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14 - 30 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

"The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 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 to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'

"The master was full of praise. '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!'

"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!'

"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.'

"Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. **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. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

What is the meaning of the Parable of the Talents?

Jesus' Parable of the Talents, shows what happens to two people who accepted God's invitation. They worked hard and with God's help, doubled their investment. The man who hid his talent in the ground is like those who choose to remain the same, to not continue to grow and waste precious opportunities. They refuse to work at the potential that God has given them and thus miss out and even hurt their opportunity to succeed.

The Parable of the talents speaks about making the most of your abilities for God's purposes. Maybe your talent is being a good student or perhaps you are a gifted athlete. You may be a natural leader or coach. The Bible clearly teaches that the source of your talent is a gift from God. A talent that should be invested in God's Kingdom - not 'buried' or wasted.

What Does This Teach Us?

The "Parable of the Talents" teaches us that there are two types of people:

- The person who carefully invests their time and talent to serve God.
- The person who either wastes or buries their talent.

Those who live for themselves cannot expect to be treated the same as those who serve God. When we ignore, waste or abuse what we are given we are "snubbing our noses" at God and deserve to be punished. Those that use their talent to the best of their ability and direct it towards God's purposes are rewarded and given more talents.



- 1) Who is the most talented person you know?
- 2) What does the term talent mean to you?
- 3) Where does talent come from?
- 4) Are we to be responsibility with our talent?
- 5) Have you ever seen people waste their talent?

Another Encouraging Bible Verse to help you succeed!

Ephesians 5:15-17 'So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.'

- 1) Who do you know who really uses their talents for God?
- 2) How can your athletic ability be used for God?
- 3) In your Words how do you define success?
- 4) What talents would you like to use to serve God?
- 5) What can you do right now with the talent you have to impact His Kingdom?

Everybody has talent. It may not be as high in some areas as some other-people, but you ARE TALENTED!

- Ask yourself how you can best invest your talent for God.
- Pray this week for God to help you make the most of every opportunity to use your talent for Him.