



## THE PARABLE OF TALENTS

### Slide 1

Our previous talk was about **Slide 2** the return of Jesus. Maybe you are wondering when this is going to happen, **Slide 3** in a year, two years, more, less... **Slide 4** We cannot know it since Jesus did not say it. However, He told a little story, a parable, that we are going to discover now and that you can reread in **Slide 5** chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. At the end of the story, you will be able to answer the question of the day:

**Slide 6** "While waiting for his return, what does Jesus recommend us to do?"

### Slide 7 JESUS TELLS THIS STORY

**Slide 8** A rich man is about to go **Slide 9** on a very long journey to a far away country.

**Slide 10** He gathers his three servants.

**Slide 11** - I am going, he said to them, and while waiting for my return, you will manage my property. **Slide 12** I entrust to you all that is mine, all my fortune. **Slide 13** You will take care of it and do whatever it takes to make it grow. I 'going to give each of you a share according to what you are capable to do:

**Slide 14** - Come here, he said to the first. **Slide 15** Here are five talents. I entrust you with them, you will do all you can to do make them bear fruit.

Five talents! **Slide 16** That's a huge amount of money!

Then he calls **Slide 17** the second servant:

- And for you, **Slide 18** here are two talents! He says to him. I entrust them to you, you will do all you can to make them grow.

And now is the turn of **Slide 19** the third servant.

- Here is **Slide 20** a talent, he said to him. I entrust it to you, you will do whatever you can to make it bear fruit.

**Slide 21** And off he goes, leaving all his fortune in the hands of his servants.

**Slide 22** The first servant thinks.

- My master has gone. He trusts me completely. **Slide 23** I will immediately get down to work because I don't want to disappoint him. It is necessary that these five talents, that he entrusted to me, bear fruit, multiply.

**Slide 24** He sets to work and little by little, what has been entrusted to him bears fruit. He works hard but it is with great joy that he does so. He likes very much his master whom he knows to be a very good man

**Slide 25** The second servant doesn't waste his time:

- What my master gave to me is of great value, he tells himself. **Slide 26** He really trusts me. I'm not going to sit around and wait for his return. I want him to be proud of me when he comes back. I want to be able to give him a little more than what he gave me, **Slide 27** maybe three talents, who knows ?

He happily sets to work.

**Slide 28** And the third servant! What does he do? Well, he takes **Slide 29** his bag, a very heavy bag. He carries it on his shoulder. He grabs his shovel and sets out. Once in the field, he begins to dig **Slide 30** and dig. After much effort, he straightens his back and dabs the sweat on his forehead:

- Phew! He says, that's good! It's pretty deep! He takes a box **Slide 31** from his bag and places it at the bottom of the hole.

He picks up his shovel and throws dirt to fill up the hole. **Slide 32** He packs down well and covers everything with a carpet of leaves.

**Slide 33** - Impeccable! He said, it's over and now we just have to wait. I can take care of my own business, rest and have a good time.

**Slide 34** One year, two years, ten years and maybe more! The years go by and the master has not returned yet. **Slide 35** Do the servants still remember that he is to return? Are they discouraged from waiting? Let's see where they are! **Slide 36** The first two are always very busy. They persevere and their work is paying off. They are happy at the thought of return of their master even if he seems to be late.

**Slide 37** And the third one? Ah! He's busy too, but busy with other things! The return of his master... oh! He doesn't think about it anymore.

**Slide 38** One fine day, it's a surprise! The master is here! **Slide 39** The master is back!

**Slide 40** - Come closer! He tells them. Tell me how you handled the possessions that I have entrusted to you.

The first one comes near quietly:

**Slide 41** - Lord! He says. Here are the five talents that you entrusted me and **Slide 42** these are the five talents that I have earned.

**Slide 43** - It's very good, said his master, you're a good servant, I can trust you. You were

faithful in this matter, I can entrust you the handling of more important things. Come! Share my joy!

The second servant in turn approaches.

**Slide 44** - Lord, he says you gave me two talents. **Slide 45** I have earned two more. Here they are!

**Slide 46** - It's very good, says his master, you're a good servant, we can trust you. You were faithful in this matter, I can entrust you the management of more important things. Come! Share my joy.

And the third servant! ... **Slide 47** What is he going to do? He runs to retrieve what he has hidden and **Slide 48** comes forward confidently:

- Lord, he says, I know you **Slide 49** as a severe and hard man, so I got scared and I went to hide your money deep in a hole in the ground. **Slide 50** Here! I 'm giving it back to you!

**Slide 51** - Lazy, bad servant! The master answer, since you claim that I am a hard man, then why didn't you go to the bank to deposit my money there? There, at least, it would have yielded some profit. You are a good-for-nothing and in addition, you try to justify yourself! Throw him outside! He has no place here! **Slide 52** Give his talent to the one who already has ten, because **Slide 53** he is a faithful servant, and so he will be even more in abundance!

**Slide 54** **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

**Slide 55** *In your opinion, the master of whom Jesus speaks in this parable, who does he represent?* **Slide 56** *Yes, he represents Himself.*

*After his death, Jesus was resurrected,* **Slide 57** *he went to heaven and he will return.*

**Slide 58** *The servants represent us,* **Slide 59** *you and me.*

**Slide 60** *What about the talents, those bags of money? They represent all the riches that God gives us entrusts us with* **Slide 61** *our life,* **Slide 62** *our health,* **Slide 63** *our time,* **Slide 64** *our gifts, what we are capable of doing, what we are good at ; it's different for everyone.*

*What does Jesus tell us to do with everything He gives us?*

Well **Slide 65** *he tells us to make efforts to do whatever we can to please him to use all our talents* **Slide 66** *to be useful to others until He returns.*

*Will you and I be rewarded? Yes, He will reward us for our loyalty. He will say to us: "Come, you will rejoice with me, you will share my joy,* **Slide 67** *good and faithful servant!"*

So, whatever you do, **Slide 68** do it with all your heart, even the little things. Do them with joy as if you were doing them for the Lord.

**Slide 69** **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

Christian life is manifested by services for the Lord and for others. First, let's help our children discover and be grateful for what God confides in them: life, health, food, clothes, money, family, friends. Then let's help them see how they can use and develop what is entrusted to them ... Let us encourage them to give to others and to serve faithfully and with joy.

Jesus sees it and one day in heaven they will be rewarded.

**Slide 70**