

In today's passage, we find the Parable of the Talents. In this parable, a man going on a journey entrusts some of his wealth to his servants and leaves. Upon returning, he settles accounts with them.

In this parable, the master represents Jesus—the returning God. This message powerfully teaches us that a day of reckoning will inevitably come in our lives. Through this passage, we want to spend meaningful time reflecting on how we can receive praise and blessings—or in another sense, how we can avoid rebuke and judgment.

First, The Lord praises our faithfulness.

On the day of reckoning, what was the master's standard for evaluating his servants? What led him to praise some and rebuke others? If we look at today's passage carefully, we can see that the standard was faithfulness.

In verses 21 and 23, the master says, "You have been faithful," and offers praise. We can see the same point in the Parable of the Ten Minas in Luke 19.

No matter how many talents we are given or what abilities we possess, these are not the criteria for judgment. God looks at how faithfully and diligently we did our best with what we were given.

Ultimately, God alone evaluates our lives. We must live each day doing our best with the thought, "How will God evaluate my life when He sees it?"

Why was the servant who received one talent rebuked? Verse 25 says, "So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

He was so afraid of failure that he buried the talent and did nothing with it. That is what made the master angry. So, the master called him a wicked and lazy servant. He was rebuked not because he failed, but because he did nothing. (See also 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

Second, Our heart toward the Lord pleases Him.

In verse 26, the master's rebuke includes the word "wicked." Why was the servant called wicked? Because he said the master was a harsh man, reaping where he did not sow and gathering where he did not scatter seed.

Saying the master reaps where he does not sow implies he is exploitative. This servant had a distorted view of the master and a broken relationship with him.

What does God most want to see when we work for Him? He wants to see if we love Him with all our heart. Even though we may be lacking, if there is genuine love for God in our hearts, He is pleased.

More important than what we accomplish is the kind of relationship we have with God. That matters more than any visible achievements.

Third, God entrusts greater missions to the faithful.

To the servants who received five and two talents, the master says in verses 21 and 23, "Well done, good and faithful servant. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."

And in verse 28, the master orders that the one talent be taken from the unfaithful servant and given to the one who had ten talents.

This does not mean the servant owned the ten talents—it means the master entrusted more of his wealth to the servant who had been faithful with five.

When we are faithful, God entrusts us with greater missions. Let us believe that when God gives us a task, it is not because we are qualified, but because He deems us faithful.

Though we may feel incapable in our own strength, may we all respond with gratitude and give our best effort in the work entrusted to us.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."
(1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

**Bible
Reading**

6/30(Mon)	7/1(Tue)	7/2(Wed)	7/3(Thur)	7/4(Fri)	7/5(Sat)	7/6(Sun)
Psalms 35-38	Psalms 39-44	Psalms 45-50	Psalms 51-57	Psalms 58-65	Psalms 66-69	Psalms 70-74

QT

Quiet Time Passage

6/30(Mon)	7/1(Tue)	7/2(Wed)	7/3(Thur)	7/4(Fri)	7/5(Sat)	7/6(Sun)
Psalms 84:1-12	Psalms 85:1-13	Psalms 86:1-17	Psalms 87:1-7	Psalms 88:1-18	Psalms 89:1-18	Psalms 89:19-37

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share any grace you experienced in your life through last week's sermon or your weekly devotion.

2. Share any new insights or blessings you received from today's message.

3. As you reflect on standing before the Lord, consider your faithfulness, your relationship with God, and the greater mission He may give. Share and pray together.