

## The Talents

Today's passage talks about the talents: the five, the two, and the one.

All of us are talented, but our talents are not the same.

All of us are able, but our abilities are not alike.

All of us are servants, but our services are diverse.

Why didn't this master distribute the same number of talents on all of them?

Is he an unfair master? Is he discriminating? Discrimination is a hot issue nowadays.

Having more than others is not always a privilege, It is a bigger responsibility. You are asked for as much as you have been given.

Therefore, the one who has less talents is less fortunate, but he is also the one who has less responsibility than the two others.

Unfortunately, we value things by numbers - by world criteria of what is better.

God hates numbers (don't say that to a mathematician). He is three in one, you want more than this argument to "believe".

Guys, I beg you, don't compare yourselves to others. You are not the same. You will never be and you should not be. Don't measure yourself on what others are, but on what God created you to be (a huge difference).

Saint Paul in his letter to the Galatians states: "All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride."

The one who has the one talent is unique. He had less than the others, here exists his uniqueness. The ones who have two and three talents are also different in what they have. No one is more important than the other.

Having less or more doesn't determine your importance.

Anyhow, all that we have is given freely to us not owned by us. We cannot blame, condition, and argue with God about His free distributed gifts. All that we have are His. We are not owners - we are investors.

Matthew Chapter 25 verse 14 describes it: "A man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them."

And let us be more clear, these are not gifts for us to use as we wish and like. These are talents. These talents are God's possessions entrusted to us to take care of them. Thus all that we are and have is entrusted to us and these talents should not be misused: our bodies (especially our tongues) from which gossiping and hurt can spread; our emotions - where our lustful desires can take hold; our minds - where our evil thoughts will be fabricated; and our spirit - where our idol gods can be molded.

The ones who have two and five talents were praised not because of how much they did but because of their "faithfulness". They didn't misuse that that was entrusted to them: "Well done, good and faithful slave".

However, the one given the single talent, was admonished: "You wicked and lazy slave!"

Why? He didn't lose his talent, he preserved it. Right, but he didn't do what his master asked for. These talents were given to function: "After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them."

An account is going to be settled with us. The account is not going to be about numbers but about faithfulness. Did we try? Are we eager in doing our service, trustworthy in our ministry and mission work? Are we proud of being Christians or shy? Wicked and lazy.

Are we good examples and investors in our Church or troublemakers and destroyers?

I'm going to come back to comparing ourselves to each other.

When you stop comparing yourself to others, you don't fall anymore in the hole of jealousy, you don't care of being seen anymore since God becomes your reference - not humans. You don't give up in whatever harsh circumstances you will be in for you know that good work is patient, and it takes time and persistence to cause radical change.

Here comes Saint Paul's wise words: "So, let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

The biggest problem of the one "who has the one talent" is his unfaithfulness.

He didn't do what he was asked for. Not doing that which we are asked for, have many times the same consequences as doing the opposite of that we are asked for.

People who don't intervene when something wrong happens are sometimes worse than the others who cause the wrong things to happen.

This servant dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. By that he thought he will be fine.

We bury a lot of good things in our life and my fear is that when the settling account time comes, to not be shocked in knowing that these hidden things buried in this hole, that were on one time for our salvation, are going to be now the cause of our condemnation.

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk