

Jared had sat there quietly when Jesus had shared the stories. He could see that Jesus was trying help people remember to be ready all the time. He was tired. It had been a long day and he had been following Jesus all day. He walked in the door at his house, smiled at his mum, shared what he had seen and heard that day and then crawled into bed.

As he slept, he had a vivid dream. In his dream he was sitting in heaven talking to Jesus. And Jesus was reflecting on some of the people that they both knew.

"Remember your Uncle Ezekial?" Jesus asked. Jared nodded. Jesus continued, "He was always so responsible. As the oldest in the family, he just seemed to thrive on being asked to do things and then do them well. He led out in the synagogue. He embraced the message that I shared when I was walking the dusty roads of Judea. He had been wealthy but used all his resources to build the church. You saw him yesterday as you were standing near the Tree of Life. He is here because he simply gave his life to Me and then lived his life for Me.

"You remember those last two stories I told just before I was put on the cross that Passover Week? Well, I was thinking of your Uncle Ezekial when I shared about the person who had been given five talents and when he worked faithfully, had another five as well. Ezekial is a good and faithful man. If only there had been more like him. And Ezekial was always looking out for the people who needed help. He didn't do it so that I would notice, it was just a way of life for him."

In his dream, Jared smiled, he liked Uncle Ezekial and had been so excited to catch up with him in heaven. Uncle Ezekial had told Jared he felt he unworthy to be here but was so glad that Jesus had died to save him.

Jesus went on, "But you remember Uncle Joseph? I am so sorry Jared that your Uncle Joseph is not here in heaven. You see he was unwilling to let Me have control of his life. He thought he would miss out on a lot of fun if he did that. He did not worry about what happened to others. If they needed help, he simply ignored them because he was so focused on doing his own thing. He had no interest in being a good steward or manager of the things he had. He thought stuff was just there to be exploited and used. So were people. He always thought he would have enough time at the end to let Me have a turn in his life. Joseph wanted to live for the moment. I know he was a bit of an embarrassment to your grandparents. They worried about him and prayed for him. But Joseph would just say, 'Someday I will take the time to sort my life out. But not now. I am having too much fun!'"

Jesus said, "I watched the family at the funeral that day. Joseph had such a sad ending. Getting caught up with the wrong group. Making very selfish decisions. Then getting killed in the marketplace when that runaway camel kicked him in the head as it was panicking. He never did have time to sort his life out. You reap what you sow. And sadly, Joseph did not think of others and he did not try and build My kingdom like Ezekial. And so he is not here in heaven."

The dream faded and Jared realised he was sleeping in his own bed in his own house in Israel. He sat up and thought about the dream and the stories that Jesus had shared yesterday. He knew both his uncles well. He thought of the two very different directions the two brothers were taking. Then he thought of his own life.

What would he do with his life?

How would he treat people?

How would he respond to the things he was asked to do?

He knew now he could not just put off making a decision about Jesus in his own life for some other day. He needed to follow Jesus and do what Jesus would want – NOW.

Helping Jesus

Sabbath

What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Building or making things |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explaining things | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Maths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sport | <input type="checkbox"/> Strength |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talking | <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organising | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby Sitting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Year 3, Quarter 2, Week 6, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Matthew 25:14-46; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 19:11-27, 21:37-38, John 5:29 NLT; *The Desire of Ages* p637-641; *Christ's Object Lessons* p325-365; *The Bible Story* v8 p183-192

Sunday

This is a story that Jesus told to help people get ready for when He comes again. It is found in Matthew 25.

A man going on a trip gave his servants some money to invest while he was gone. He gave five talents, or bags of silver, to one servant. He gave two, to another servant. And he gave one, to the last.

When the man returned, he called his servants to find out how they had used his money. The servant with the five bags of silver had made five more and his master was very happy. The servant with two had made two more and the master was also happy with him.

But the servant with one bag 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." Matthew 25:24-25 NLT. He had buried the bag of money in a hole in the ground.



The master was angry; he said, "Why didn't you at least put it in the bank to earn interest?" Then he took his money and gave it to the servant who had done the most.

Luke shares another story that Jesus told like this one.

A man was leaving home, he had been chosen to become the king. Before leaving he divided his money between ten servants, asking them to invest it. Now, many of them did not want him to become king and tried to stop the coronation.

When the new king finally return home, he called the servants to account for his money. One servant had made ten times the original amount. The king appointed him governor of ten cities. Another had made five times the amount, and the king appointed him governor of five cities. But another, just like in the other story that Jesus told, said, "Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant."

Luke 19:20-21 NLT

Friday

The parable of the talents can also refer to spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are similar to talents, some spiritual gifts are talents, some talents can be spiritual gifts. Also note, that in the parable of the talents, each servant was given at least one talent, and the verses below says that each person is given at least one spiritual gift.

1 Peter 4:10 NLT says, "God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

Then Peter goes on to say whether our gift is speaking or helping, we should do the best we can with the strength and energy God gives us.

In Romans 12:6-8 Paul talks about the gifts of prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading and showing kindness.

Paul also talks about Spiritual gifts in his letter to the Corinthians.

In 1 Corinthians 12:7, he says, "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

And he goes on to mention the gifts of wisdom, special knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, languages, and also the gift of discernment, to recognise if a message is from God.

Do you know what your Spiritual gifts are? There are tests available to help you figure it out. But most importantly, ask God what He wants you to do. Give your talents to God, be prepared for Him to use them and they too will become Spiritual gifts. Do this and you will find the best happiness that you can in life.

Pray the
prayer of
the last part
of Psalm
143:8, 'Show
me the way
I should go,
for I give
myself to
You.' NIV / NLT
Find the
underlined
words.

L E A D I N G X H E A L I N G I V I N G X K L O
X A N V S S P E C I A L F G I F T O F F A I T H
S C O N E E P X V S L O V X V S P E A K I N G E
P H T W K X R E A L X D L W E L L O V X G D E L
I A H E N C O U R A G I N G N L H E L P I N G P
R S E L O A P S I N R S P I R I T U A L F E I X
I X R L W N H E E G E C O V M Y S E L F T S F S
T H E M L X E E T U A E A C H L H I S O F S T E
U G I V E O C V Y A T R X E S H O W X R R E S R
A O G O D L Y O U G O N O V E L U S O X O R X V
L T H E G I F T M E F M I R A C L E S V M V E I
R H T H E L R O X S O E V E L X D N O V X E E N
E E O X A S O L O X V N X W I S D O M X E X L G
C R E S C O M V E L O T E A C H I N G I V E N O
O G N I H M E S S A G E X Y O U X V E L O V E D

Thursday

Find these talents.

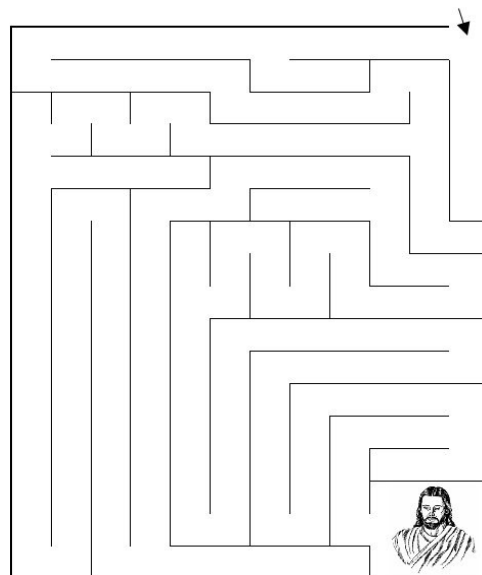
Art, building, explaining
things, helping, leading,
listening, making
friends, maths, money,
music, sport, strength,
talking, thinking,
writing.

L E A D I N G T A L E N T S
T X A B U I L D I N G L E N
T P S T A L E N T S N T A L
E L N T G S T A L E I N T S
M A K I N G F R I E N D S T
A I L E I N T S T A E L T E
N N T S P T A G N I T I R W
L I E N L T S T A L S E E N
T N S T E A L E N T I S N T
A G L E H N T C S T L A G L
E T N T S G N I K N I H T T
S H T A M A L S E N T S H T
A I L E N T S U T A L E N T
S N T A L A E M O N E Y N T
S G T A L R E N T S T A L E
N S P O R T A L K I N G T S

Talents often run in families.
Talents improve with use.
Some people have many
talents, others fewer, but
everyone has some sort of talent. Some talents are more obvious than
others. If you are not sure what your talents are ask your parents or
teachers.

Think about one of your talents; how can you use it to help other
people?

When you do something for
someone you are doing it for
Jesus. Find a path to Jesus.



Monday

What did the king do then?

Of course, he asked why the servant hadn't put it in the bank to get
interest, and he gave his money to the servant who had gained the most.

When the others protested, the king said, "Those who make good use of
what they have been given, will be given more."

Then he ordered those who had tried to stop his coronation to be
executed.

Another time Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes, He will sit on His
throne, the nations will be gathered there, and He will separate the
people like a shepherd separating His sheep from the goats. He will put
the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.



Then the King will say to the people on
the right, "The Kingdom of Heaven is
yours; when I was hungry you fed me,
I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.

I was a stranger, and you were
friendly; naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and
you cared for me, I was in prison, and you visited me."



They will say to Him, "When did we see you or help you?"
The King will say, "When you did something for someone,
you were doing it for me!"

Then the King will say to those on the left, "When I was hungry, you did
not feed me; I was thirsty, and you did not give me a drink. I was a
stranger, and you did not make me welcome, naked, and you did not give
me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you did not visit me."

They will say, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison and not help you?"

And He will answer, "When you didn't help someone, you didn't help me."

Tuesday

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word talent comes from the Old English talente, which came from the Latin (Roman) word talenta/talentum which meant a unit or weight of money. Which is why some modern Bible versions translate it as 'a bag of money.' The diction says, our modern meaning of the word talent, to have a special skill, ability or aptitude in a particular field, actually comes from Jesus' parable of the talents.

The conclusions to the first and second parable in our stories are almost identical. Read Matthew 25:29 and then read Luke 19:26.

The NLT translates the Masters conclusion as, "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." Matthew 25:29 NLT

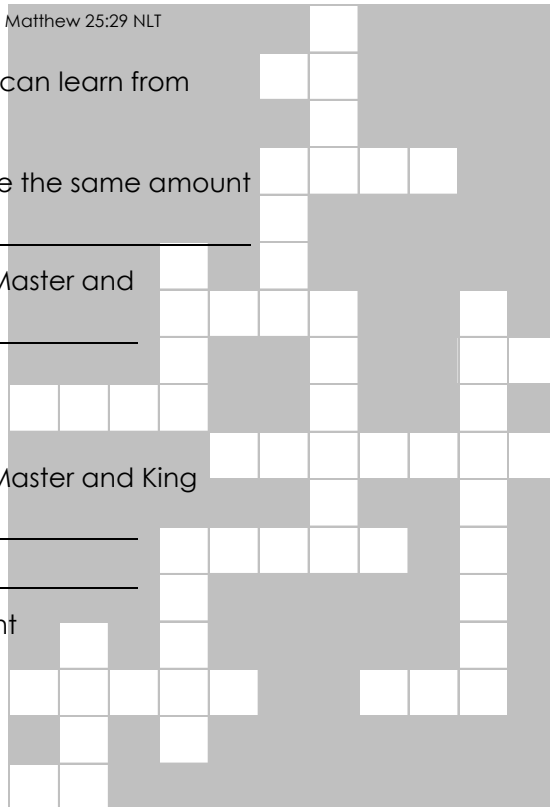
What are some things we can learn from this parable?

Did all of the servants have the same amount to state with? _____

Which servants were the Master and King happy with? _____

Which servants were the Master and King unhappy with? _____

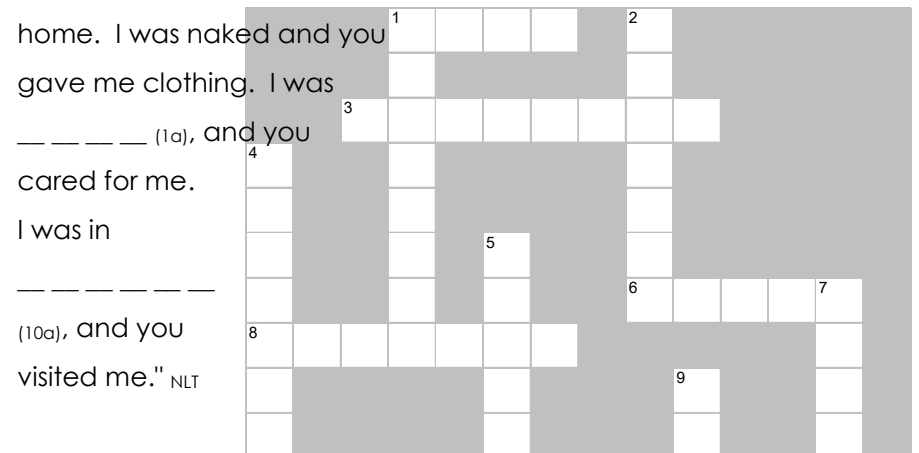
Note that it is not important how much they had, but what they did with it. Fit the underlined words from Matthew 25:29 into the grid.



Wednesday

Use an NLT or NIV Bible to fill in the missing words from Matthew 25:34 and solve the crossword.

"Then the _____ (7d) will say to those on His _____ (11a), 'Come, you who are _____ (2d) by my _____ (5d), inherit the Kingdom _____ (3a) for you from the creation of the world. For I was _____ (9d) and you fed me. I was _____ (8a) and you gave me a _____ (6a). I was a _____ (1d), and you _____ (4d) me into your



home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was _____ (1a), and you cared for me. I was in _____ (10a), and you visited me." NLT

