The Parable of the Talents
Matt. 25:14-30

Introduction:
A. Jesus anticipates four things concerning the kingdom of heaven.
   2. His work placed into servants’ hands (v. 14b) – now works through Christians in world.
   3. His assignment of proportional responsibilities (v. 15).
   4. His return from heaven (v. 19)
B. Jesus describes two **imperatives** for the three servants in the parable.

Discussion:
I. **Their Responsibility to Their Lord While He Is Gone (v. 15)**
   A. No one escapes responsibility – “every man” (v. 15).
   B. No one given unfair responsibility – “according to ... ability”
      1. Lord recognizes different *natural* abilities (Acts 18:24 w/ 2 Cor. 11:6).
      2. Lord recognizes different *material* abilities (Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:12).
      3. Lord recognizes different opportunities (Phil. 4:10; Gal. 6:10)
         a. May blind selves to opportunities.
         b. Cf. Shoe Salesman.
   C. No one should be unhappy with his particular responsibility (cf. 1 Cor. 12:14-19).
      1. Some unhappy because have more responsibility than they want (cf. Heb. 5:12).
      2. Some unhappy because want more responsibility than they have (cf. Jas. 3:1)
         a. Need to accept limitations as well as responsibilities.
         b. Need to respect limitations imposed by ability and scriptures.
   D. No one is excused from doing what he or she can do.
      1. No comfort in comparison to others – 3 not enough for 5 talent man, but 2 was for 2.
      2. No benefit in a purely negative religion.
         a. 1 talent man did not lose his talent by waste in riotous living, gambling, etc.
         b. 1 talent man did not hinder the other two men.
      3. No excuse to use caution to cover laziness (vv. 24-26; cf. Prov. 26:13).

II. **Their Judgement by Their Lord When He Returns (v. 19)**
   A. The two faithful servants received identical rewards (v. 20-23).
      1. Each received more than he could earn (v. 23 - “few” vs. “many”)
      2. Each received entrance into the “joy of thy lord” (cf. Rev. 21:4).
   B. The “do-nothing” servant went into outer darkness (v. 30).
      1. He lost everything (vv. 28-29).
      2. Cannot be content to just “hold our own.”

Conclusion:
A. Have you fulfilled your responsibility to the first principles of the gospel?
B. Are you fulfilling your responsibility as Christian daily?