

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Parable of the Talents

One of the most eye-opening revelations mankind faces when coming to the Bible is exemplified in the parable of the Talents; namely, that we are accountable to God. The Parable of the Talents casts a great light on the varied elements of our faithfulness towards the Lord. Four practical lessons of our stewardship are reinforced in this parable.

First, the Parable of the Talents teaches that we will be held accountable for our lives. The overarching theme Jesus provides is that everything we possess is given to us by Almighty God. Often we see the word “possess” and recognize ourselves as owners. In reality, we are mere stewards. Do we recognize ourselves as stewards or owners? Our answer makes all the difference. A steward’s life consists of taking care of something for someone else and waiting for the day such things will be returned to their Master. An owner possesses things and is entitled to do as he wants with them. And yet all we have, our material belongings, our opportunities and even our very lives—belongs to God. We are simply entrusted with them until the day of reckoning. Some believe on that final day we will show our faithfulness but the truth is we are showing our faithfulness now by the way we use these entrusted endowments, just like the servants in this parable.

Second, the Parable of the Talents shows that we do not have identical opportunities or talents. Each steward was entrusted with unequal amounts of money, “Each according to his ability” (Matthew 25:15). All are entrusted with something, but each receives a different amount. In our age of equality, we are tempted to begrudge varying degrees of allocation and opportunity. We sometimes compare ourselves and our talents. Yet we must remember two things: we are responsible for what we have and we are able to work with what we have. Jesus reminds us, “After a long time the master of those servants returned” (Matthews 25:19). The parable parallels a sure return of Jesus to judge us and a sure accounting of our faithfulness with that which he has entrusted to our care. The return will consist of our own accounting of our faithfulness to God.

Third, the Parable of the Talents shows that God has given us everything we need in order to be a good steward. Due in large part to the modern-day doctrines of equality, we are tempted to feel sorry about the servant who was only given one talent. Yet our faithfulness is not contingent on anyone else’s relationship with God and we will be judged by our own merits. The Biblical teaching found in Luke 12:48, reminds us that whatever we are given is required back to God, whether a little or a lot. “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.” The one talent man was not given too little to accomplish his faithfulness toward the master. He was given more than enough to meet the master’s expectations. Likewise whatever we possess is sufficient enough to produce an increase for our God. But it will always take our effort of faith to achieve that increase.

Fourth, the Parable of the Talents teaches us that our success is contingent upon our work or effort of faith. Go back to the beginning in the book of Genesis and you will see that God’s purpose for man was to work the garden and to keep it. Man has always been made to work. God cares about our efforts and pursuits. This is why God has included the efforts of man in his plan for salvation. Our labors and deeds matter to God. And He expects an increase in whatever we have been given. God expects growth and increases to be the outcome of our

efforts in faith for Him.

The conclusion of this parable is unmistakable; we are personally held responsible for our lives to God. Jesus shows us in the Parable of the Talents, our calling as Christians and our responsibility to use what God has given us to glorify and honor to Him. May we ever be thankful to Him for giving us opportunities to serve and glorify Him.

—Bobby Burris

### ***Sympathy***

**Anna Groves** entered eternal life early Friday morning, November 22nd at Parks Living. She had been in the Memory Care Center for some time. A memorial is planned for her in the Spring in Casper, Wyoming where her son, Gregg lives. Anna was laid to rest at the White Rose Cemetery in Wills Point, TX. Our sympathy goes out to Gregg and his family in the loss of his mother.

### ***Prayer Requests***

Doug and Kim Guynn have requested prayers for their nine year old granddaughter, **Krysta Guynn**. She has degenerative myopia which is a very serious eye condition. Please keep Krysta in your daily prayers.

### ***Concerns Update***

Jackie Rex's vein surgery last week went well. She is doing well and does not have any pain. Jackie has a follow up appointment December 5th.

### ***Prayer List***

Brian Basaldua; Don Blackwell; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sharon Brown; Cindy Campbell; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Emma Craig; Ronald Dement; Bessie Diaz; Loyce Driver; Jazmine Duron; Paulie Ann Easlon; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Letha Hooper; Vertie Howard; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Jed Martin; Ora McAfee; Jason Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Juanita Orosco; Caydon Parker; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Bill Ryan; Debra Shipley; Janelle Shirley; Charles & Susan Simmons; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

### ***Eisenhower's Shut-ins***

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

### ***Youth***

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

To whom was God speaking when he said..."Two nations are in your womb and two peoples from within you will be separated."

#### **Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...**

God told Jeremiah "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you before you were born I set you apart."

### ***Events***

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

The elders at the **Brown Trail church of Christ** decided to take their program "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" off the air. It was televised on ABC at 8:00 am Sunday mornings.

## ***DECEMBER ATTENDED NURSERY***

12/01/19 Ashley & Lindsey  
12/08/19 Wanda & Christy  
12/15/19 Bonnie & Holly  
12/22/19 Nancy E. & Devida  
12/29/19 Virgie & Gloria

The “NMCCH” Home” will be here on Tuesday for a food pickup. They have requested cold cereals and brown sugar and will also pick up the gifts for the children at that time.

### ***Ladies Gift Exchange***

There will be a “Gift Exchange” at Bonnie Sorenson’s home, Friday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. Ladies, please bring a gift to exchange and a finger food.

## Do You Thirst For God?

USMC Cpl. Bob Banner got separated from his platoon during Desert Storm. He wandered in the desert for 48 hours hiding from the enemy, evading Iraqi scouts and hiding under the sand in evasive maneuvers. He was found by the allied forces who happened to have reporters with them. He was recounting his story to the reporters who noticed he was gulping down water. A reporter commented, “You sure are thirsty!” to which Cpl. Banner replied, “You know what, I was so busy running, I forgot I was thirsty.” This same sort of thing sometimes happens to Christians, also. They get so wrapped up in doing so many “Things” they forget to thirst after God, even though, it may be good things they are doing. Jesus cautioned his disciples that they could become so busy running that the “cares, riches and pleasures of life “might be allowed to choke out the word.” Instead, Christians should be as David who wrote, “...as the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?” (Psalm 42:1-2). As the deer thirsts for life-giving water, Christians should thirst after the life-giving God. Every Christian should slowdown his life and thirst after God. If they do, then, as Jesus said in John 4:14 “Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.”

–Mike Bentley Rush

<b>December 1, 2019</b>	<b>A.M.</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Clint Titlow
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Jacob Carson	Don Easlon
Second Prayer	Don Easlon	Tommy Garcia
Closing Prayer	Tom Sorenson	Doug Guynn
Lord’s Supper		
(Scripture Reading)	<u>Larry May</u>	
West...	Gary Loving	John Wood
	Rudy Ochoa	Communion
	Bill Ryan	(In Library)
East	Miguel Lozano	
	Jackie Perkins	
	David Ryan	

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209—*Deacon*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702 — *Pulpit*:—Jr. Munoz—363-1309 *Table*: John Wood 413-7444 — *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons*: Richard Siler 556-2151—*Collections*: Richard Siler 556-2151

**Sunday AM**

*“Stronghold in the Day of Trouble”*  
(*Nahum 1:7*)

**Sunday PM**

*“Man of Paradox”*  
(*Ecl. 2:1-11*)

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 57*  
*Morning Worship...108*  
*Evening Worship...66*  
*Wednesday...74*  
*Contribution...\$5,736.00*