

Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Into the Lesson:

Crunching some numbers in anticipation of the Super Bowl:

\$157,000 what each player on the winning team will receive (losing team players only receive \$82,000)
\$30,000+ the average cost of the championship ring-
\$7,000,000 cost of a 30 second commercial-
\$23.1B Estimated amount Americans will wager on this year's Super Bowl-
\$6,944 (price has dropped since last week) average cost of a single ticket-
TNTC (too numerous to count) the number of tortilla chips I will consume with my future Granddaughter In-Law's salsa.

How do all of the above correspond to Lane's opening statement, "What a waste" (although the last one is more in line with "waist")?

Commentaries seem to agree the word "talent" is both a literal standard of measure as well as a metaphorical definition of abilities.

Into the Word:

To keep this parable in context, begin at verse 1 and read to verse 30. What does it appear is the main thrust of these two parables?

How does this apply to the main thrust of the message?

From Lane's (and Sam's) sermons, commentaries or Bible margin notes what is the value of a talent?

How does I Corinthians 12:12-24 help to understand the phrase "...each according to his ability" (v.15)?

How does the Apostles Paul and Peter instruction provide instruction to "not fritter away" what God has given us?

I Corinthians 8:1-9-
Galatians 5:13-15-
I Peter 2:11-17-

From past sermons (might have to get your notes out) is there a difference between Spiritual Gifts and natural talents?

Romans 12:8-10-
I Corinthians 12:8-10&28-30-
Ephesians 4:11-
I Peter 4:10-11-

Into Life:

How do you respond to Lane's comment, "...But how much sadder are the lives that could be used for incredible purposes, but just aren't"?

How do the concepts of "**Distribution**" and "**Contribution**" play into our response to what "The Great Giver of Gifts" has given us?

Have you ever asked, "how can God use my ability to _____", to build up the Body of Christ?

What if it's not something you *ever* thought could be used for the Kingdom?

How do you respond to the idea that, "no one in the church should have two jobs until everyone has one"?

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Colossians 3:17

Will you use what you have to His Glory?