

## Talented

Matthew 25:14-15 states **“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five TALENTS, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey”**.

Then at the end of the parable Matthew 25: 28-29 says **“Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten TALENTS. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.”** A man is leaving to go on a long journey and he has three trusted managers who he will give to manage his property and symbols of his authority. His distribution of the property is not parted in equal shares because one of his managers is given more than twice the amount of goods as one and five times as another. The real currency here was not the goods that was distributed but the trust that was imparted to these managers by the master. They have obviously been in the company and employ of this traveling man and they must have proven to this seemingly prudent master that they had the potential for responsibility and enlargement. He moved them from workers to management and then left alone with instructions to operate in his absence. The reason the man gives for his distribution decisions is that all of the men in his employ had various abilities but it seems he sowed more into the man that has the most creativity and innovation. You will note that at the end of the parable right before the man with one talent is chastised and upbraided for hiding the talent in the earth, that the traveling man says that at least that wicked servant could have used the standard exchange system to at least earn some common interest on his money. This would have been acceptable but it was not like the man with five talents.

This was a man ready for a promotion that was willing to take some risk with his masters goods in the assurance that the principles that he had observed from the master would also work for him. After all, these were the same goods of the masters and he was not the master but was walking in the authority of the man, therefore what the master received was what he also expected. Each had ability but the master judged that one was a doer who could operate as a steward under pressure with more responsibility. This man with five talents was not afraid of this windfall blessing and saw it as an opportunity and not a burden. Often God will bless us with more work in the kingdom and we get angry because we have so many other things to do than to work in the vineyard for free. Bills are due and creditors are not taking wait for an answer and kingdom business has to take a back seat to what we view as reality. When God gives us a seed we often bury it in our pockets or to our creditors so fast that we forget about Kingdom giving principles and yet crave nothing but kingdom blessings. This is a problem. The church is full of people with potential who refuse to maximize it or even use it for the benefit of Gods people. Too many of us have settled in the comfortable center of life afraid of the edge and unwilling to change. God can't move us because we are stuck by our own choosing. The reality is that those who are called to be kingdom givers, administrators, managers and stewards of goods in the church are operating in disobedience when they sit in a church and never use their gifts. Many churches are still unorganized because God has brought in an admin specialist but he or she is unwilling to step up to the plate.

The answer from the traveling man to the one servant who was given just one simple assignment and one simple test on stewardship was clear. He was saying that the man had misused his trust and authority by placing it in an area where it was hidden and unfruitful. Gifts smother when hidden and can eventually wither over time if they are unused and uncultivated. The man thought that the master (traveling man) would appreciate his safe living but instead took his trust (talent) and gave it to the one who already had increased from the original 5 talents to 10 talents. In other words, since the servant who started with five talents proved that he was creative enough to gain 5 more talents, then he was ready to be promoted to rulership. This is a place where you don't simply manage but you receive. God is trying to promote us but we must be good managers over what we are given to move to our true place of rulership. Don't just be people of potential. Maximize it to rule.