

Wise Investing

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Larry: Skype Steve Gumaer. [#2 is skipped slide]
- B. Slide6-8 Larry: 12 Angry Jurors. CMCS Coaches. Men's Breakfast.
- C. Slide9,10 Brian: Good Fri: 7am communion & Crosswalk 11am/Temeku. Easter Times.

II. Slide11 Intro: Wise Investing

- A. Story: John Galbraith, in his autobiography, *A Life in Our Times*, illustrates the devotion of Emily Wilson, his family's housekeeper:

It had been a wearying day, and I asked Emily to hold all calls while I had a **nap**.

Shortly thereafter the phone rang. Lyndon Johnson was calling from the White House.

"Get me Ken Galbraith. This is Lyndon Johnson." - "He is sleeping, Mr. President. He said not to disturb him." - "Well, wake him up. I want to talk to him."

"No, Mr. President. I work for him, not you."

When I called the President back, he could scarcely control his pleasure. "Tell that woman I want her here in the White House." [Reader's Digest, December, 1981]

1. Do you remind yourself often who you *ultimately* work for? (God)
 2. Do you take His instructions as *suggestions* or **commands**?
- B. Slide12 This parable deals with *service* in the world while Jesus is away.
 1. Talents are different from *abilities*, for in v.15 he gave to every man **according to his own ability**.
 2. The talents represent **opportunities** to use our *abilities* to serve Christ.
 3. We are born with various *abilities*, but Christ gives us **opportunities** to exercise our *abilities*. The important thing is to be **faithful**.
 - C. Slide13 Our time is not to be spent **dreaming** of that future day. It is to be spent in the service of our **absent** Lord, who has entrusted His possessions to **us**.
 1. Being ready for His coming means *being involved as servants in the ongoing ministries committed to us by our Lord*.

- D. Another parable is similar in Lk.19:11-27 *Parable of the Minas*, yet it is different timing & was used for a different purpose.
- E. Last week we saw the 5 Virgins represented as *waiting* for their Lord; we have here the servants *working* for Him.
- F. **Key is Faithfulness.** *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.* 1Cor.4:2
- Faithful** - implies *unswerving adherence to a person or thing or to the oath or promise by which a tie was contracted.* [Faithful = full of faith, trustful, and not simply trustworthy]

III. Slide14 INVESTMENT STRATEGIES (14-19)

- A. (14) The Lord compared Himself to a Bridegroom. Now as *a traveling man to a far country*
- Slide15 Traveling** - suggests that he is gone for a season, & that he will return when his purpose is accomplished.
 - Note:** The servants were His & the goods were His.
 - His servants could not claim their **persons**, nor their **possessions** *as their own*.
 - All belonged to the Lord, & were to be used for Him.
 - Like you today, they** were not the owners of the money but the managers while the Owner was/is away.
 - Like a steward on a ship, or stewardess on an airplane.** They **don't own** the plane or **anything on** the plane, yet have a great **responsibility** of the things given into their care as they serve.
- B. **Slide16a** (15) *according to his own ability - not, IF you win the lottery!* (I'll give so much to the poor) **No, what He's given you today!**
- Christ gives us **opportunities** that match our **abilities**.
 - He was/is **the judge of the ability** of each of his servants.
 - Rest assured...**He will bestow upon us as many talents as we can rightly use, & quite as many as we shall be able to account for when He returns.**
 - It is obviously **not** the number of our talents, **but** the use we make of them, that is the matter.
- C. **Slide16b A Talent** was a currency unit representing a lot of money.
- The Talents represent opportunities to use our abilities.

- a) If **5** were given to a person w/minimal ability - he would be destroyed by the heavy responsibility.
- b) If **1** were given to a person of great ability - he would be prone to sloth.
 - (1) In the army all are not generals, so in the church all were not furnished to be leaders.
 - (2) *Slide17 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

D. **Application:** Let's see these Talents as anything & everything that our Lord has given to us, for use here, as His stewards.

1. **What Gifts & Talents** (natural & spiritual) **has He entrusted you with?**

- a) Money, time, opportunities, musical gifts, vocal gifts, teaching, working w/kids/elderly/youth, drawing, photography, computer, electronics, counseling, baking, letter writing, giving, drivers/camp, hospitality, cooking skills, your education, your profession...*none of us are empty handed.*

2. J.C.Ryle, *Anything whereby we may glorify God is a talent. Our gifts, our influence, our money, our knowledge, our health, our strength, our time, our senses, our reason, our intellect, our memory, our affections, our privileges as members of Christ's church, our advantages as possessors of the Bible - all, all are talents.*

3. *Slide18* Our Gifts & Talents are like a vessel, which may be **large** or **small**, **but** in each case is **filled**.

4. **And**, a **1 Talent servant** is just as important as a **5 Talent servant**.

- a) *The woods would be silent, if only the birds sang, that sing the best.*

b) We may easily be too big for God to use, **but** never too small. *D.L.Moody*

E. (18) **We** are living in between vs.18 & 19.

F. (19) **After a long time** - like 24:48 & 25:5.

1. *Slide19* There is a reckoning day coming. Like *famous Amos* said in Amos 4:12 *Prepare to meet your God.*

IV. *Slide20,21a* **P&L STATEMENT REVIEW (20-30)** *profit & loss*

A. **2 WISE INVESTORS (20-23)**

- B. The 3 servants fell into 2 categories: *Faithful & Unfaithful*.
- C. The 2 Faithful...put their talents to work.
1. **Note:** Though their Talents were **different**, they both got the exact same commendation. (vs.21 & 23)
- D. They both doubled their Talents. Have we doubled the **grace** given us? Do we have twice the **tact**? Have we duplicated our **service** unto Him?
- E. **THE MASTERS COMMENDATION (21,23)**
- F. His 4-fold response:
1. Pat on the back - well done
 2. Praise - good & faithful
 3. Promotion - made ruler, placed in charged of many things. They started as *servants* & were promoted to *rulers*.
 4. Pronouncement - enter into the Joy (enter into the kingdom), to sit at the masters table.
 - a) Slide21b Leighton, *It is but little we can receive here, some drops of joy that enter into us; but there we shall enter into joy, as vessels put into a sea of happiness.*
- G. Remember, *faithful stewardship* pleases the Master more than the actual return on His investments.
- H. Slide21c **1 UNWISE INVESTOR (24,25)** *Don't Bury It. Hide it under a bushel, no!*
- I. Scene Change: We now have the Unfaithful man who *buried his talents*.
1. He didn't purposely **do evil**, but **by doing nothing** he was committing sin, & robbing his Lord of service & increase.
- J. Instead of 1st returning the money, he gave a little speech.
- K. The phrase, *you have what is yours*, was used in Jewish transactions to say, *I am not responsible for this any further*.
1. He seems to wait for some commendation for at least keeping it safe. *"I didn't lose it!"... "Here I kept it safe!"* [he tries to justify his *inaction*]
 2. He seemed he'd rather bring nothing at all, then bring something so small.

- a) **Note:** the one who said, “Oh, I can only do **a little** for the Lord” was the one who got the serious rebuke!
- L. **Slide22a** Remember, the 5 Foolish Virgins erred through a vain *over-confidence*. This Servant through an *under-confidence* that was equally vain & sinful.
1. **Thus** we see **2 opposing rocks** on which **faith** is in danger of **making shipwreck**.
 2. The 5 Virgins thought it *too easy* to serve the Lord. This Servant thought it *too hard*.
- M. **Slide22b** where you have not sown - Thomas Aquinas, “*God requireth from man nothing but the good which himself hath sowed in us.*”
1. This man’s words were *self-contradictory* & his excuse was *self-condemnatory*
 2. **Hard?** He gave him the Talents to begin with.
 3. **Afraid?** He blessed the 2 other guys.
 - a) *Fear is the mother of presumption.*
 4. **He was a man afraid he might fail, so never tried to succeed.**
- N. He understood what the master wanted, *a return on the investment*, **but** he chose a different course of action.
1. Do you risk? Do you try to play life safe? Jesus says, that’s a terrible way to live. It’s criminal to live life like that.
 2. **Fear causes people to play it safe.**
 3. We also must ask ourselves...**have we ever caused someone else to bury their talents?** Have we within the culture of the church caused **women** to bury their talents. **We may cause someone to bury their talent when we criticize someone’s idea.** It just took 1 sharp word of discouragement to cause someone I know to never pick up a guitar again. *[be careful little mouths what you speak]*
- O. **THE MASTERS CONDEMNATION (26-30)**
- P. (26) He condemns him out of his own mouth.
- Q. **Slide23a** (27) (Application) *If you don’t do it yourself, at least contribute to what others are doing (mission work) & join your capital with theirs.*
- R. **Slide23b** (28) **If you don’t use it you will lose it.**

S. (29) *There is no worse crime than the crime of a wasted life, or a life wasted.*

1. **Faithfulness** results in *blessing and reward*. The *inverse* of this statement also is true.

T. (30) His 4-fold response:

1. **No Pat** (on the back) here.
2. **Praise?** could not be uttered, it was wicked & lazy.
3. **Promotion?** no a de-motion.
4. **Pronouncement?** *not enter in, instead get out.*

U. (30) **Weeping & gnashing of teeth** - Reflects the unspeakable anguish of *being separated from God*, which is *far greater* than any other punishment.

V. **Slide24** We are to be *actively* awaiting His Return.

W. This parable, like the one immediate before it, *has to do w/both real & nominal Christians*. Both those who *are & profess to be* the servants of Christ.

X. We see in God's kingdom there simply is no room for *drones*, *only for working bees*.

1. **Every part does it share** (Eph.4:16). Exercise your gifts. Stir up your gifts. Fan them into flame. Serve your Master. Invest your gifts.

Y. **Great principle of Christian living:** *Faithfulness in ordinary life brings about infinitely great results by the grace of God.*