

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 9

The Talents

Objects to have:

A jar of olives
Some merchandise (apples or toys, etc.) to “sell”
Coins of various sizes
Fifteen coins that are all alike
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

It could be today! We just don't know when it will happen! It might happen while we are sitting here in our Sunday school room! It might happen this afternoon while we're home! It might happen tonight while we are sleeping! It might happen tomorrow or next week or next month or next year or many years from now. God the Father does not want us to know when it will happen. What will happen? Jesus will come for us who have trusted Him.

There's going to be a time when an angel will blow a trumpet. Everybody who has ever trusted Jesus will rise and keep going up and up and up until they come into the cloud. All the people who have trusted Jesus and died before us will rise first to meet Him. They will have brand new bodies. If we are still alive when Jesus comes, our bodies will be changed into brand new ones, and we will just suddenly start to go up. We will be able to go through the ceiling and straight up and up and up until we come to the cloud where Jesus is.

Jesus is going to come from Heaven someday and come into the clouds, and we who have trusted Him will go up to meet Him. We're going to stay with Him there for seven years. There will be people left on the earth. Those people who will be left on the earth had not asked Jesus to be their Saviour.

Then, after seven years, Jesus and all those who are with Him will come again to the earth. Jesus then will be the King! He will be the King over all the earth, and we who have trusted Him will have jobs to do on the earth. We will rule with Jesus all the other people who are on the earth. The disciples loved to think about that time.

(Hold up your jar of olives.) See what's in this jar. These are some olives. Olives make me think of a place where Jesus was with His disciples. They were on top of a little mountain that was called the Mount of Olives. There were many, many olive trees on top of this mountain. Jesus was there, and His very close friends were up there with Him. “What's the kingdom of Heaven going to be like, Jesus?” the disciples were wondering.

Jesus said, “I'll tell you what the kingdom of Heaven will be like.”

Before we hear another parable that will tell us what it will be like when Jesus is the King, let's play something. (Call one child to the front of the room with you.) We are going to pretend that you are the owner of a business. You are the owner of a (have the business correspond with whatever “merchandise” that you brought with you). Here's some money. You need to buy (whatever merchandise is supposed to be there) to put into your store so that you can sell it to someone else. You can buy it from me for that amount of money. (“Transact” the business.)

Now, the store owner wants to sell the things that he has put into his store. After he sells the things, he needs to have more money left over than he began with so that he can pay rent on his house and buy clothes and buy all the other things he needs. So, Mr. Store Owner, here comes a customer. (Choose another child to come to the front of the room.) That customer has some money in his hands. (Give the child more money than you had given the store owner.) This customer comes to buy what you have in your store. You paid (whatever amount you gave the

store owner) for this. Now, you need to sell it to him for more than you paid. You tell him that the price is (whatever you choose).

(To the store owner say): Now you have more money than the amount of money that you paid for that. You have worked hard, you have set up your store, you have bought the merchandise that went into your store. Now you have sold it for more than you paid so that you can take care of other things that you need. (You may thank the two children who helped you and have them be seated.)

Telling the story:

Jesus said that the kingdom of Heaven is like this: A man said to the people who worked for him, “I want to talk with you.” His three men came to talk with him. (Choose three children to come to the front of the room.) “I am going to go away for awhile. I am going to go far away. While I am gone, I want you to take care of my business.” (Have one child come up to you and receive from you five coins that are all alike.) “Here are five talents—five pieces of money. Now, you work hard while I am gone, and I will come back to see how you have done.”

(Give the next child two coins that are alike.) “I am giving you two talents—two pieces of money. Work hard while I am gone. When I come back, I will check to see how you have done.”

(Have another child come up to you.) “Here is one talent—one piece of money. You work hard, too, and when I come back, I will check to see how you have done.”

And the man traveled far away from home. (Put five coins into the other hand of the first child; two coins into the hand of the second child; whisper into the ear of the third child, telling him to hide the one coin that he had.)

The day came when the man was finished with his travels. He started on his way home. His workers did not know that he was coming home because he had not even known the day when he would get back home. So, when he got back home, no one was looking for him to come. He went into the house and called out that he was back. He called to his three servants and asked them to come to report to him.

The first servant came to him, and the man asked, “How did you do while I was gone?”

“Look, you had given me five talents—coins—and I have worked hard, and I have five more talents. Altogether I have ten talents.” (While saying the preceding, look into the hands of the first child and count the money that he has.) The man said to that first servant, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things....” (Put this money in something of yours, so that it remains in your possession.)

Then he called the second man to him. (Have the second child open both hands, count the coins and say), “I gave you two talents, and you have made two more talents. You have worked very hard, and I am proud of you. Well done, good and faithful servant: thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things....” (Put this money away, also.)

Then he talked to the third worker. (Open both hands of the third child.) “What! You have nothing to bring to me?”

That servant said, “I have heard that you are a hard man, and I was afraid, so I took the one piece of money—the one talent—and I dug a hole in the ground, and I hid it. You will find it out there in the ground.”

The man said to that servant, “I’m going to have someone go and get that talent, and you may not have it. (Choose a child to do this.) In fact, you may not be in my business at all. (Choose a child to touch his arm and walk him back to his seat.) Somebody throw him out. The one talent that he had, bring it and give it to this servant.” (Point to the first child.)

Jesus was telling His disciples that that is what the kingdom of Heaven will be like. There will be some people there who love Jesus. Jesus will reward people who have loved Him and worked for Him. He will throw out those who have not trusted and obeyed Him.

Jesus is in Heaven and will come again for us someday. While He is gone, we need to live the way He wants us to live. Everyday we are to know more about His Word. Everyday we are to pray. Everyday we are to get to know Him better. Everyday we are to help others. Everyday we are to be serving Jesus and trusting Him. Those who have not trusted Jesus will not get to be with Him—He will have the angels throw them into the bad place called Hell. Then everyday let's live the way we should, doing what He wants us to do when He comes back. Before it's too late, trust Jesus as your Saviour.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 25:23, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."