

**What Will You Do with Your Bags of Gold?**

- You prob remem this prbl as prbl of talents, where instead of bags/gold, srvnts entrstd w/1,2,5 talents. When we use word “talents,” usually mean skills/abilities that talented person has. Might think show “America’s Got Talent” where ppl sing, dance, perform w/skill/ability. But what might not know: English word “talent” comes directly fr today’s Gos. Great big, 5 inch, unabridged Webster’s dictionry: “borrowed fr prbl/talents in Mt 25.” That’s how famous this prbl is, that when we speak re skills & abilities, we call them talents.
- But in this prbl, talent: not skill/ability. Talent: very large sum \$; what word orig means. I talked re this in sermon ~2 mos ago: prbl unmerciful servant. You remem, in that prbl a man owed king 10k talents, translated 10k bags gold. Today, a 1 oz gold coin fr US Mint: worth ~\$2k – one coin. Now take heavy duty leather money bag filled w/30 lbs gold coins worth \$2k each – that’s lot/money! 10k bags gold, unfthmbl amnt, which is the point in that prbl – we owe God unfthmbl debt. But in today’s prbl, a very wealthy man (Lord) entrusts talents, bags gold, in diff amnts, to his srvnts (ppl like you/me). **Vs. 14-15**. Didn’t give them \$ to keep, as gift; gave \$ to use, to invest/increase. Wanted that \$ put to work, to good use, so that when got back fr journey, he’d be able see all the good things his \$ had accomplished.
- Not diffclt see what J is driving at here, esp when realize told prbl on Tues of HW. J getting ready to go on journey – to cross, tomb, back to hvn. He’s going die, rise, ascend, and not come back again until Last Day. So in this prbl, J teaches his discs/us what he expects us to be doing until he comes back. Expects us to be making good use of the talents, bags gold, entrusted to us.
- In prbl: **vs. 16-18**. First 2 put \$ right to work: started business here, invstd in company there, emplyd wrkrs, sold prodcnts. Whatever did: took assgnmnt seriously; put \$ to work and incrsd master’s wlth. 2 things note: 1) Master’s \$, not theirs! Didn’t waste it, blow it on whtvr they wanted; also didn’t bury it in ground, keep it to selves. They said, “Master has entrusted this wealth to us to use faithfully. So that’s what going do.” His \$ not ours; 1. 2) Amnt didn’t matter. 5 bags gold, 2, 1 – amnt doesn’t matter. All had same assgnmnt – put \$ to work. Diff quantities to diff ppl, but same assgnmnt. First 2 srvnts followd assgnmnt; 3<sup>rd</sup> did not. Just buried \$, did nothing w/it, didn’t even try, considered that good enough.
- So here’s how prbl ends: **vs. 19** – time to review invstmnts. 5 gained 5; Master: **vs. 21ac**. Said same: 2 gained 2. These two srvnts were faithful stewards of wealth entrusted to them. Then we come to man given 1 and buried it. To him Master said, **vs. 26a**, threw out into darkness – not bec couldn’t turn profit, but bec didn’t even try; didn’t use what had been entrusted to him; ignored assgnmnt; was unfaithful.
- Do you see what J is teaching here? J is master; we srvnts. He’s entrstd to us incrdbl wealth, amazing resources; and given us task/assgnmnt of faithfully putting resources to good use in his kngdm. Right now, J is away on journey; but coming back soon. And when does, expects to find us faithfully carrying out our assgnmnt, putting these resources good use. The faithful are rewarded; unfaithful cast out. So, there’s only 2 ways live before Xp returns: as lazy srvnt or faithful srvnt. One or other; no 3<sup>rd</sup> option.
- So, qstn for you/me today is this: what will you do w/your bags gold? What you do w/resources, talents, skills, abilities, gifts, wealth, gold God has entrusted to you, his srvnt? That is the qstn, bec if you don’t want be thrown into darkness, then you need realize: God expects faithful ST fr his ppl. This is a prbl re Xian ST. ST is not ch word for fndrsng, for increasing offrngs, raising \$ for new parking lot. ST is taking honest look at bags gold God has entrusted to you and commanded you to use, and faithfully putting that wealth to work, to best of your ability, in service to him & his kingdom. That’s Xian ST.
- So what exactly are these bags gold that you possess? We often talk re 3 Ts of ST: time, talents (skills), trsrs (\$). Time/talents: interrld. If God’s blessed you w/certain skill-sets, and time to use them in God’s kngdm, then God expects you put time/talents to good use. And this includes evone, bec evone has time, and evone has certain talents – maybe some more than others; but remem: qntty doesn’t matter, as prbl proves. No one can say, “I have nthng to contrbt; not talntd.” God’s distrbts wide variety/gifts; heard re that in 2<sup>nd</sup> rdng, **Rom 12:6-8**. You have been uniqly gifted to make unique contrbtns to God’s kngdm w/time & talents. And also w/trsrs. God calls on us to be faithful in putting our trsrs to work in kngdm. This: prbl re \$. Shame on us if we refuse to see ch offrngs as a part of God’s expctns for us. Shame on us if we say, “God, you can have some my time/talents; but don’t touch my trsrs.” God has blessed us



w/financl wealth in remrkbl abndnc, and expects us put it to good use, not to bury it or keep it for selves. Think of widow at temple, who gave her last 2 copper coins. Think of when J: **“Where your trsr is, there your hrt will be also” (Mt 6:21)**. Faithful ST of time/talents/trsrs is what God expects.

- So again, what will you do w/your bags gold? That is the qstn you have to wrestle with. You’ve been given – evone of you! – unique gifts, varied skills, cornucopia of talents, spiritual wealth. How will you use it for kngdm – for Lord, his ch, & his ppl? Whtvr you do, do not settle for: mediocrity; interest w/bankers. Be a: hard worker for Lord; generous distributor of the gifts he’s given you; faithful steward of wealth God has entrusted to you!
- What will you do w/your bags gold? I think re that qstn for myself. What has God given me? Cross (faith: not evone has; I do; share); stole (pstrl min: respblty care for flck, feed shp, reclaim straying, tch faith, distrbt Sacrmnts); checkbk (financs: I consdr self wlthy man; I have income, spouse; could blow \$ on selves, live posh lifestyle; but wouldn’t help anyone; want use \$ help ppl w/sprtl & physcl needs); watch (time/volntrsm: instd just thinkng re #1, how spend time help others); keys to ch (membrshp in cong; I love this cong/you; what can I do serve this cong). What will I do w/my bags gold? What will you do w/yours? We could bury them, focus only on selves. But our master has given us assgnmnt to put this wealth to use, to serve him & others. So, what do w/your bags gold?
- That’s qstn J asks in this prbl. Where we have failed be good stewards (all certly have!), there we ask God’s frgvnss: “Lord, I’m sorry for being wicked, lazy, self-centrd, miserly, uncaring servant who’s buried your gold instead of putting it to use.” Then we remem what J did 3 days after told prbl. Made contrbtrn/life, in service to us. He who was rich made self poor, so that we thru his poverty might become rich (2 Cor 8:9). J forgives all our sins of lousy ST, which means that smday we will hear our master say, **vs. 21ac**. God considers you a good/faithful servant for J’s sake. So he’s entrusted you w/bags gold to put to use in his kngdm. The qstn is: what will you do w/your bags gold?

### Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ <sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ <sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup>“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup>““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup>For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**Romans 12:6-8** <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.