

I WILL HIDE YOUR TALENT IN THE GROUND.SO I WAS AFRAID,
AND I HID YOUR TALENT IN THE GROUND.

Shalom. May our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified forever. Welcome, as we dive into His life-giving Word.

There is a profound lesson in the parable of the man who entrusted his servants with talents money given to invest on his behalf (Matthew 25:14-30, NIV).

As you know, the first servant was given five talents and doubled them. The second servant had two talents and also doubled them. But the third servant, given one talent, did nothing with it. The reason? Fear.

Let's read this passage from the **New International Version (NIV)**:

Matthew 25:24-30 (NIV):

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[24] *"Then the servant who had received the one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

[25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'

[26] "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?

[27] 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.

[28] "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.

[29] 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.

[30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Theological Reflection:

The talents represent the resources, gifts, and opportunities God entrusts to each believer (cf. 1 Peter 4:10). The master represents God

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Himself, who expects us to steward what He has given us faithfully and fruitfully. The third servant's fear is not just about losing money, but a deeper spiritual issue **lack of faith and trust in God's provision and promises** (Hebrews 11:6).

This fear leads to **spiritual paralysis**, causing believers to hide their gifts rather than use them for God's kingdom. The servant's justification ("I was afraid") shows a lack of understanding of God's grace and mercy and a failure to act boldly in faith.

Why is this important for us today?

Many Christians hold back in their spiritual walk because of similar fears: Fear of rejection by family or community (John 15:18-20). Fear of being ridiculed or misunderstood (1 Peter 4:14). Fear of losing worldly status, friendships, or employment (Luke 9:23-24). Fear of suffering or persecution for their faith (Matthew 5:10-12).

These fears stop believers from fully living out their calling, bearing fruit, and glorifying God.

Jesus Himself modeled this radical commitment. He was rejected by His own family (Mark 3:21), hated by many (John 7:5), and ultimately died a

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humiliating death on the cross (Philippians 2:8) all to produce the greatest fruit: salvation for humanity.

Jesus warns us that true discipleship demands sacrifice and total commitment:

Luke 14:26-27 (NIV):

[26] "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters yes, even their own life such a person cannot be my disciple.

[27] And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

"Hate" here is understood as **prioritizing Christ above all relationships and even life itself** (see also Matthew 10:37). The cross represents suffering, sacrifice, and self-denial.

Furthermore, Jesus uses the metaphor of the wheat seed dying before it bears much fruit:

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John 12:24 (NIV):

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

Spiritually, this means believers must die to self and worldly attachments in order to bear lasting fruit for God.

What does this mean for you?

If you truly want to follow Jesus, you must: Let go of worldly attachments, pride, and unhealthy influences (Romans 12:2). Seek God with all your heart and devote your energy to Him (Jeremiah 29:13). Avoid being a “nominal Christian” one who claims faith but whose life shows no transformation or witness (James 2:17). Understand that fear of human rejection or failure can prevent you from fulfilling God’s purpose (2 Timothy 1:7).

Remember, one day we will all give an account for the life and salvation God has entrusted to us (Romans 14:12). Do not bury your talents out of fear; step out in faith and watch God multiply what you offer.

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Maranatha.

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