The Parable Of The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Intro:

A. Jesus spoke the parable of the ten virgins.
   1. It was spoken to teach His people to be ready for His return.
   2. This is its point of emphasis.
   3. It begins with "...then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins..." This refers to the point of His coming.

B. This parable is spoken of an entirely different time.
   1. "For the kingdom of heaven is as..." This is supplied by the King James translators. The literal is "...For as a man going from home called his own slaves..."
   2. The time described in this parable is the time the disciples were in as He left. It also presents our time today. This is the way it is for all of us.

I. The Departure And The Delivery.

A. "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far county, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." V.14
   1. traveling = αποδημον = "going form home"
   2. servants = δουλους = "slaves."
   3. delivered = παραδιδωμι = "to hand over to another"
   4. goods = τα υπαρχοντα = "the things existing."
      "the things in hand to give over,"
      "property," "possessions."

B. The delivery.
   1. talent = ταλαντον = "scale of a balance" "a certain fixed weight", equal about 113 lbs. To us about $1,000.00.
   2. 5,2,1, the amounts given.

C. "to every man according to his several ability..." V.15
1. several = ὅσος = "one’s own," "particular."
2. ability = δύναμις = "power", "capability."

II. How The Talents Were Used.

A. The five talent person. V.16
1. traded = ἐργαζομαι = "to work," "labor"
2. He made five other talents.

B. The two talent person.
1. likewise = "in the same manner" v.17
2. gained = κερδαινο = "to derive profit"

C. The one talent person. V.18
1. "...dug in the earth..."
2. "...hid his Lord’s money."

III. The Reckoning.

A. The five talent person.
1. "...I have gained beside them five..." v.20
2. well done = "...good and faithful" v.21
3. "...I will make thee ruler over many things."
4. ruler = καταστησω = "I will set you over many things."
5. good = ἀγαθος = "inner harmonious perfection"

B. The two talent person.
1. "...I have gained two other talents..." v.22
2. "Well done, good, faithful servant" v.23
3. "...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"
4. "I will make thee ruler..."

C. The one talent person.
1. hard = σκληρος = "dry," "stiff," "unyielding" v.24
2. "A severe man" - Wey
3. "gathering where you did not winnow" - RSV
4. "you are a difficult man, your expectations go beyond your reason, you expect too much."
5. I was afraid = φοβομαι = "to be terrified" v.25
6. This man blamed someone else for his failure. He assumed no responsibility.

D. The reply of the Lord.
1. "you are wicked and slothful." V.26
2. wicked = πονηρός = "evil in nature," "causing sorrow, pain, evil disposed."
3. slothful = οξυνήρος = "slow," "tardy"
4. If this is what you really thought of me, why didn't you... V.27
5. usury = τοκός = a bringing forth, as children, offspring, metaphorically what money will produce, = interest.
6. The talent is take from him and given to the person that has ten. V.28

IV. The Kingdom Principle.

A. "For unto everyone that hath shall be give, and he shall have abundance." V.29
1. This does not apply to our lives now. It will be applied after the coming of Christ, the judgment seat of Christ, during the Millennial reign.
2. abundance = περισσεύμα = "that which remains over."
3. Those saved people who do not serve faithfully and, "do well", will not have a place of responsibility in the kingdom. Their responsibilities will be given to faithful ones. They will enter into the Joy of their Lord, His reign on earth.

B. "...but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."
1. What this person had was opportunity to serve. It does not mean his salvation.
2. In the Millennium, one cannot earn rewards.

C. The loss of the unfaithful.
1. unprofitable = αχρεός = "of no use," "useless," "not wanted." V.30
2. outer darkness = This is not hell. It is away from the place of honor and service. These people will see that they made bad decisions and will regret them deeply.
3. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
4. 1 Corinthians 3:15