



Stepping Stones

Matthew 25:14-18 New Revised Standard Version

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

Notes: _____



“Laziness is the mother of all evils.” –Sophocles

In a way, it seems unfair. The servant played it safe. He didn't gain anything, yet, he didn't lose anything. Nevertheless, he was called “wicked” and “lazy.” That can't possibly be right because, well, he didn't do anything wrong. After all, “wicked” is a term reserved for the witch in *The Wizard of Oz* and not for people who keep to themselves. But, we discover, that was the very issue. He was more concerned about...himself.

That the master was wealthy and generous is communicated by his willingness to entrust his servants with multiple talents. Whereas “talents” have come to refer to special abilities, in Bible times, they were a unit of weight (approximately 75 pounds). The material being weighed (often silver) determined the value of each talent. It is fair to say the servants were given an exorbitant amount.

Once they were entrusted with such responsibility, their master went away and didn't give details as to when he might return. It was up to the servants to make decisions for themselves as to how they would handle their master's generosity. More than a story of a master and three servants, it is our story. God has given us much and it is important for us to use time, abilities, and resources well.

1. **Waiting upon the Lord is a call to be productive.**
2. **Productivity is an indication of our love for God.**
3. **Love for God is limited by a desire for self-preservation.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, you have given me life. Help me to be wise in the living out of my days, so that you might be honored in all things. Amen.