

Balancing The Books

Parables , What do We Know?

- 1.* They used everyday objects, events and images to communicate important truth.
- 2.* They were designed to test, not the intelligence but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer.
- 3.* Great insight about God and his Kingdom can be ours by listening carefully to these parables



Balancing The Books

So Far We Know: “The Dirt In My Life”

- The Seed of Truth is planted and grows in our lives
- We are responsible for the soil of our hearts
- Soil can be:

Hard - trampled down and packed with other things

Shallow - truth bursts into growth and dies

Crowded - full of weeds that prevent fruitful growth

Fertile - carefully tended and prepared, cared for



Balancing The Books

So Far We Know: “It’s Like ...”

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

God’s To Judge - Wheat and Weeds are His to evaluate

God’s To Grow -Do for God what He asks, leave results

God’s To Change - The Kingdom alters us for all to see



Balancing The Books

So Far We Know: “Fair Market Value And God”

1. God Uses Who He Determines In His Kingdom
2. God’s Grace is His to Bestow Not Ours To Negotiate
3. We Can Become Disgruntled With God
4. Wrong attitudes and expectations will Rob you of all Joy



Balancing The Books

Three Simple Observations - “Paying The Piper”

We Have Been Forgiven A Debt We Can't Pay

There Will Be Things We Must Forgive

How We Forgive Affects Our Relationship With
God

*“And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake
hath forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32*



Balancing The Books

Today - Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of Loaned Money

The Setting

- Jesus is telling about the future in Chapter 24
- End Times, His Return, Remaining Watchful
- Chapter 25 Two Parables and Final Judgment
- Giving Essential Insight for Perspective on Choices we will face.



Balancing The Books

Three Simple Observations:

Resources, Responsibilities and Rewards

Resources:

- Belonged To The King
 - 1 Talent = 10000 Denarii
 - 1 Denarii = 1 day's wage
 - 1 Talent = 27.4 years wages



Balancing The Books

Three Simple Observations:

Resources, Responsibilities and Rewards

Resources:

- Belonged To The King
- Entrusted To Servants
- Not Micro Managed
- Expected To Be Used



Balancing The Books

Responsibilities:

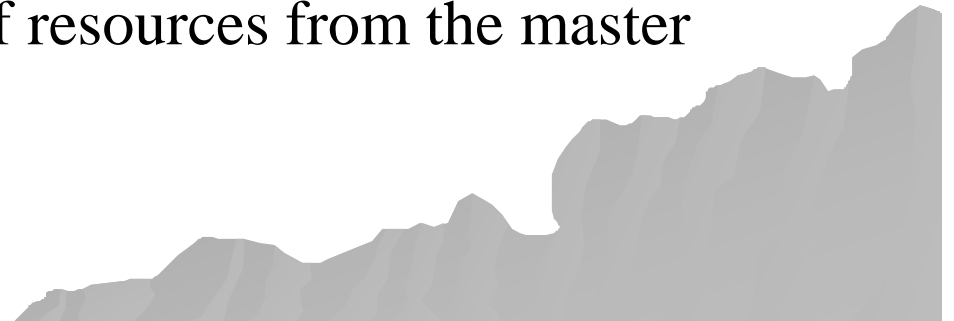
- Were Given According To Abilities *vs.15*
- Were Assigned for an Undetermined Time
- Were Responded To in 2 Ways *vs.16-18*
 1. Invested and Enjoyed
 2. Hidden and Feared



Balancing The Books

Rewards

- The Master Came Back
- The Master had Expectations of Servants
- Size of Return Not the Issue
- Faithful Rewarded With: *vs20-23*
 - well done, come share in my happiness
 - entrusting of resources from the master



Balancing The Books

Rewards

Unfaithful Responded To: vs 24-30

- Angry Master - Excuses don't cut it
- Fear and Anxiety called wicked and lazy vs25-26
- Phrase - "*here is what belongs to you*" is a saying in Jewish transactions meaning "*I am not responsible for this any further.*"
- Lost position, responsibility, and future

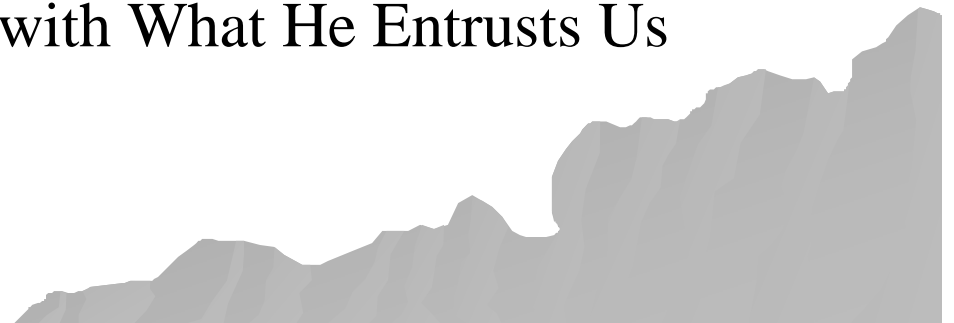


Balancing The Books

So What

Resources - Biblical Truth - God Entrusts to Us

- Abilities to work, think, invest, etc.
- Financial provisions
- Spiritual Gifts to be invested in Church
- Does Not Micro Manage them
- Expects Our Faithfulness with What He Entrusts Us



Balancing The Books

So What

Responsibilities - Biblical Truth - God Uses Humans

- God Decided to use Flawed Weak Humans
- Expects a return according to abilities
- We Respond Two Ways:
 - Investing and Enjoying
 - Hiding and Fearing



Balancing The Books

So What

Rewards - Biblical Truth - *The Books Will Be Balanced*

- The Master Will Return Expecting a Result
- The Result will be measured by God's Standards, not human standards.
- Two Outcomes:
 - Faithfulness is rewarded
 - Unfaithfulness is punished

