

The Need to Venture

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 25:14-30.

B. Jesus' word in the midst of tribulation is to watch.

II. The parable of the talents.

A. The ultimate outcome.

1. Talents are given to Christians and non-Christians alike.
2. Their whole destiny relies upon this.

B. The talents.

1. Talents are related to property—that which must be given to us.
2. They are given according to the natural abilities of a man.
3. The talent is something that demands a risk on our part.
4. A talent is the opportunity to use a gift—those times where we have to decide to do what we want or to make it possible for Jesus to do what He wants to do through us.
5. The men who gave themselves fully in their opportunities came into the joy of the Lord.
6. Men are also given spiritual opportunities to make an impact for Christ.

C. The final test.

1. The man must invest his talent—he cannot protect it or his end will be hell.
2. Hell is the only place safe from God's love and risk.
3. One must depend upon the Lord's resources to meet this final test.

Application questions:

1. What is a talent in the parable? When have you come across an opportunity to serve the Lord?

2. What are some reasons Christians fail to use their opportunities for the Lord?

3. How would you respond to someone who says that Christianity is not about risks? Explain.
