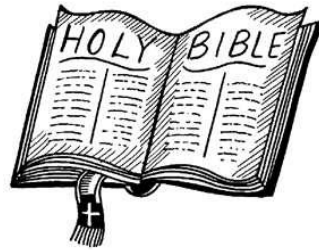


Name _____ Date _____



The Parable of the Bags of Gold

Read the following passage from the Book of Matthew and answer the questions that follow.

Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, ¹⁶ each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁷ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁸ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁹ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

²⁰ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²¹ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²² “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²³ “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²⁴ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁵ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁶ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

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?’ ²⁷Well 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“‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Footnotes:

1. [Matthew 25:15](#) Greek *five talents ... two talents ... one talent*; also throughout this parable; a talent was worth about 20 years of a day laborer’s wage.

Name _____ Date _____



The Parable of the Bags of Gold Quiz – Matthew 25:14-30

Circle the correct answers.

1. “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.” **What is Jesus emphasizing with the simile in this sentence?**

- A. the wealth of the man
- B. the ordinariness of a man on a journey
- C. the destination of the man
- D. the responsibilities of the servants

2. “To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, ^[a] each according to his ability.”

What is implied with the words, “each according to his ability”?

- A. The master trusted the first man the most.
- B. The second man asked for only two bags.
- C. The third man was reluctant to take any money.
- D. The master had equal confidence in all three servants.

3. What was the success of the first two servants?

- A. The first servant tripled the money, but the second servant only doubled it.
- B. The first and second servants tripled their bags of gold.
- C. The first servant doubled the money, but the second servant wasn’t successful.
- D. The first and second servants doubled their bags of gold.

4. What did the third servant do with the money?

- A. He lost it all in a bet.
- B. He put it in the bank, but it didn’t collect any interest.
- C. He buried it underground.
- D. He hid it in his room.

5. What does it mean to “settle an account”?

- A. to determine what happened with an investment
- B. to charge someone with a crime for losing your money
- C. to share the joy of making a profit
- D. to criticize someone for a fault

6. What did the master give the first and second servants as a result of their actions?

- A. criticism
- B. money
- C. responsibility
- D. shelter

7. What was the third servant implying about the master when he said he was “harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed”?

- A. that the master never gave him a bag of gold to hide
- B. that the master lied to him about what he did for a living
- C. that the master expected much from his servants
- D. that the master expected his servants to spend a lot of time purchasing supplies

8. The master said, “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.” What does this mean?

- A. The third servant needs to open up a bank account and start saving money.
- B. Since the third servant knew the master was demanding, he should have worked harder.
- C. The third servant should have talked with the bankers to learn more about his master.
- D. Since the third servant knew that the master was out of seeds, he should have bought some.

9. What happened with the gold from the third servant?

- A. The third servant had to pay twice the amount in gold.
- B. The money was given to the second servant.
- C. The third servant had to work to pay for it.
- D. The money was given to the first servant.

10. What can be assumed about the third servant at the end of the passage?

- A. He won’t be going to Heaven.
- B. He will have to make more money.
- C. He will be happy to leave the property.
- D. He won’t have to work very hard anymore.

11. How much is a “talent” worth?

- A. five bags of gold
- B. ten bags of gold
- C. a week’s pay for a laborer
- D. twenty years pay for a laborer

12. What do the bags of gold represent in this parable?

- A. The Good News, because it must be spread to others instead of kept to yourself.
- B. A challenge that all servants must face at some time in their lives.
- C. The greed of the master who is only interested in money.
- D. A chance to prove how hard a person can work in the fields.

Answer Key

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