

# What if ? The End Was Just The Beginning?

"So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive." (Matt 25:13)

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## RELATIONSHIP

Matthew 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants."

DOULOS which literally means bond-slave.

### Deuteronomy 15: 12

A person who is willing to sell himself into slavery to another Hebrew.

A slave could go free at the end of his six years of service; some did not want to go.

Such slaves were usually trusted with more of their master's affairs than a normal slave would be. They often were considered part of the family.

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## PERSONAL MANAGEMENT

"...who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them." Matt 25:14

Ownership is the privilege of the master not the servants.

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## DISTRIBUTION

Matt 25:15 "To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability."

The talent was the largest measurement of money, it did not have a constant value. Some say that it was the equivalent to twenty years' wages for a common labourer.

If taken on the average wage, in today's terms, a talent would be equal to \$ 1,208,280

Talents do not represent what the servant has, but what they have been given to use.

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## EMPLOYMENT

Matt 25: 16 "The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.

The only choice the servants were given in this parable is whether they worked or not.

It is not the money that goes to work, as such, but the worker.

The first two servants know that the amount of money given to them is to give increase to their labour.

Matt 25:16 (TM) "Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment."

The moment the first two receive the talents, they get to work and they keep working until the master returns.

The moment the third receives his talent, he gets to work at being idle until the master returns.

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## ACCOUNTABILITY

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."

Whilst the delay had been very long, long enough for the servants to forget that the talents belonged to the master, or long enough to believe the master may never come back, his return was a reminder that the wealth they had been given not simply belonged to the master, but they would have to give an account for what they had done with the wealth.

The standard of accountability is simple: return on investment

Two had used the finance given to increase the fruit of their labours, therefore returning a profit for the master.

One chose to maintain the status quo, is chastised by the master and loses everything.

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