

# Jesus Teaches

Jesus knew that He would be leaving His disciples soon and would go away for a long time. So, He tried to give them all the advice He could so that they would know what to do when He was gone. That is why he told them the story I'm going to tell you today. He wanted them to always be ready for the day He returns. But, just being ready was not enough. They needed to make sure that they lived a life of service to God faithfully every day using every moment to tell others of His love.



Once upon a time a businessman went on a long trip to a faraway country. Before leaving, this man called three servants and handed each of them a certain amount of money. He gave each man a different amount depending on what he thought the servant's ability was to use it. To one he gave five coins, to the second servant he gave two coins, and to the third he gave one coin. The businessman told the servants to do their best with the coins, and he left to take his trip.

The servant with the five coins started to work right away, buying and selling until he changed his five coins and made them into ten! The man with the two talents did the same, only he didn't earn so much as the first, but he was able to make his two coins into four. But the man with one coin dug a hole in the ground! What do you think he did with the hole and the coin? He buried it! Why did he do this?

Well, the servant told his friends he wanted to take life easy. He didn't see why he should work hard while the boss was away on a vacation. What was his reward? The businessman didn't tell him he was giving anything in return, so why should he do his best? These are all questions that the third servant might have thought about. He buried the coin to keep it safe, that would be enough.

Then, one day the businessman came back! He called his servants and asked them to tell him what they did with the money he had trusted them with. The first came and told him how he worked hard and made his five coins, ten! "Well done! Good and faithful servant! Great job!" said his master. "You have been faithful over a little; now I will give you a great reward and I will set you in charge over more." Then the second servant told him what he had done. "Master," he said, "Give me two coins; here are two more." "Well done! Good and faithful servant! Great job!" said his master. "You have been faithful over a little; I will set you in charge over more."



Lastly, the third servant with his one coin came to report. "Master," he said, "I knew you were the kind of man who makes his money out of other men's work, so I buried your old coin. Here it is. Take it. You can have it back." At this moment the businessman was very upset. "You are a mean and lazy servant!" He said. "Why didn't you at least put my money in the bank so I could have gained something on it?" Then he added, "I will give your coin to the servant with ten coins. Leave immediately!"

Now, there is a lesson here for all of us. Jesus has given all of us talents! Everyone is different and everyone has something very special. He expects all of us to do our best to use those talents. We can't hide them and not use them like the third servant. We have to be like the first servant. We have to use our talents! Someday, when Jesus returns, He is going to ask us what we have done with all the good gifts He has given us. Oh! I know what you might say...He has never given me any coins! Maybe not, but money isn't the only talent. Your voice is a talent, with the power to talk and sing! Your brain is a talent, with the power to think, create, and plan! Your hands are a talent, with the power to write, to play music, to draw, to create art, and to do good to those in need.

Let us stop a moment! Let us count all of your talents right now! Let us see all of these very special gifts God has given today! (Pause and help the children list their talent, at least name one.) You will probably find that you have more than one talent. Jesus wants you to use them all to His glory.

Maybe you are saying, "But I've only got one talent!" And that's okay, just don't bury it! Make the most of it! Use that talent and you will walk in glory! How exciting! You see, it is not the number of talents we have that matters, but how faithfully we use the ones we have. Jesus wants us to be faithful in the littlest things we do for Him. And when the greatest day of all the days comes, anyone know what that day is? The day He comes again to pick us up and take us to heaven, Jesus will tell you, "Well done! Good and faithful servant! Great job!" "You have been faithful over a little; I will set you in charge over more and give you great reward." How happy you will be when you hear Him say that!

