



IHL Devotionals 2024-25: Game 12

Bible story: The Parable of the Talents

By Brad Vargo

Today we read about the parable of the talents. We all have a special role to play, and none of us are spectators. This story is great at highlighting how we each have a unique skillset and can make a difference.

The Parable of the Talents

In Matthew 25, Jesus is illustrating what the Kingdom of Heaven will be like:

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, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 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.’

21 “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!’

22 “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.’

23 “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!’

24 “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. 25 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? 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.

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

Takeaways

- Like a hockey team, there are special roles for all of us: the scorer, defensemen, goalie, role players, grinders, and coaching. All roles are critical to ensure team success, and everyone must be on the same page. All are important, and if someone doesn't fulfil their role, it's tough to obtain success.
- In the same way, our Lord blesses us with unique gifts and talents. Some people are meant to preach/minister, others missionary work, others serving their church/community in other capacities (volunteer work, church maintenance, etc). Every role is important and critical for success. At the end of the day, our goal should be to hear "well done, good and faithful servant."
- God gave us talents, and it is up to us to use them to the best of our abilities, so we can all have success not only in the game of hockey, but in life and use our gifts to glorify him.
- Sometimes we struggle to recognize (or accept) our unique talents, and we try to do things that could be better suited for others.
- It's OK to start small. You don't have to change the world tomorrow. You don't have to have it all figured out. The Lord knows what he gave you. Keep reading down to verse 40: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Questions

1. What are your gifts/talents? What have you been blessed with? Do you feel you are using them properly and to their fullest potential?
2. Are there times when we maybe jump out of our talent range that God gave us, and try to bite off more than we can chew?
3. What are things you can do to develop your talents, and become more involved with them to help make a difference and bring people closer to our Lord?

Closing and prayer requests