
Enter Into
the Joy of the Lord

Matthew 25:14 (f): Parable of the Talents

Brief overview: Jesus tells the story about a master who goes on a journey & leaves bags of money, (called talents, in our Bibles) with his servants to manage. When he returns, he rewards the servants who faithfully used & multiplied what they were given.

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of the Lord. (your Master).

Matthew 25:23

The simplicity of this parable is that God honours steady, trustworthy obedience & stewardship in our everyday responsibilities, both in the natural & the spiritual, regardless of how large or small the task is.

The ultimate reward is not just receiving more responsibilities or a prize, but personally sharing in the master's own happiness, presence & the eternal celebration in His kingdom.

What does the Bible say about how delightful that looks?

But just as it is written,"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 16:11

. . . fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus "joy" was the triumph, purpose and reward on the other side bringing many people to salvation, completing the Father's will, and being exalted to the right hand of God.

What About Judgement?

36. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
37. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matthew 12:36-37

Context, Context, Context

The Judgement Seat of Christ is not the same as the Day of Judgement.

For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

The Greek word for **Judgment Seat of Christ** is 'Beama' - where athletes received their wreathes (modern day equivalent is medals) for what they did achieve.

The word "**bad**" in this verse is the Greek word "phaulos" which means worthless, ordinary, of no account.

These 'bad' things:
DO NOT AFFECT OUR SALVATION OR OUR ETERNITY IN HEAVEN.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

We are not judged for past sin. All confessed and forgiven sin is removed from us as far as the east is from the west and thrown into the sea of God's forgetfulness! Hallelujah.

Entering into the Joy of the LORD involves REWARDS!

Our faith in God is rewarded because
it pleases and blesses Him!

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

Our obedience and abiding in God earns a full reward.

8. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a **full reward**.
9. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2 John 8-9

Our wholehearted service to the LORD earns us the reward of our inheritance.

23. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
24. knowing that from the Lord you will receive **the reward of the inheritance**. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Colossians 3:23-24

Rewarded for Desiring & Keeping God's Rules.

9. The rules of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
10. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
11. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is **great reward**.

Psalm 19:9b -11

With the Holy Spirit's help we can be rewarded for endeavouring to keep the two main commandments.

29. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
30. The second is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31

Applying the Lord's righteousness, given to us, reaps a true reward.

The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a **true reward**.

Proverbs 11:18

God rewards us for blessing our enemies.

21. If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
    And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;
22. For you will heap burning coals on his head,
    And the LORD will **reward you**.

Proverbs 25:21-22

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and **your reward will be great**, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

Luke 6:35

Great reward awaits those who are persecuted for His name.

22. Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracise you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.
23. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, **your reward is great in heaven**. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

Luke 6:22-23

Our Father will reward secret giving and prayer.

3. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4. so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret **will reward you**.
5. When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.
6. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret **will reward you**.

Matthew 6:3-6

Rewards will not be determined by quantity but by quality!

12. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
13. each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.
14. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, **he will receive a reward**.

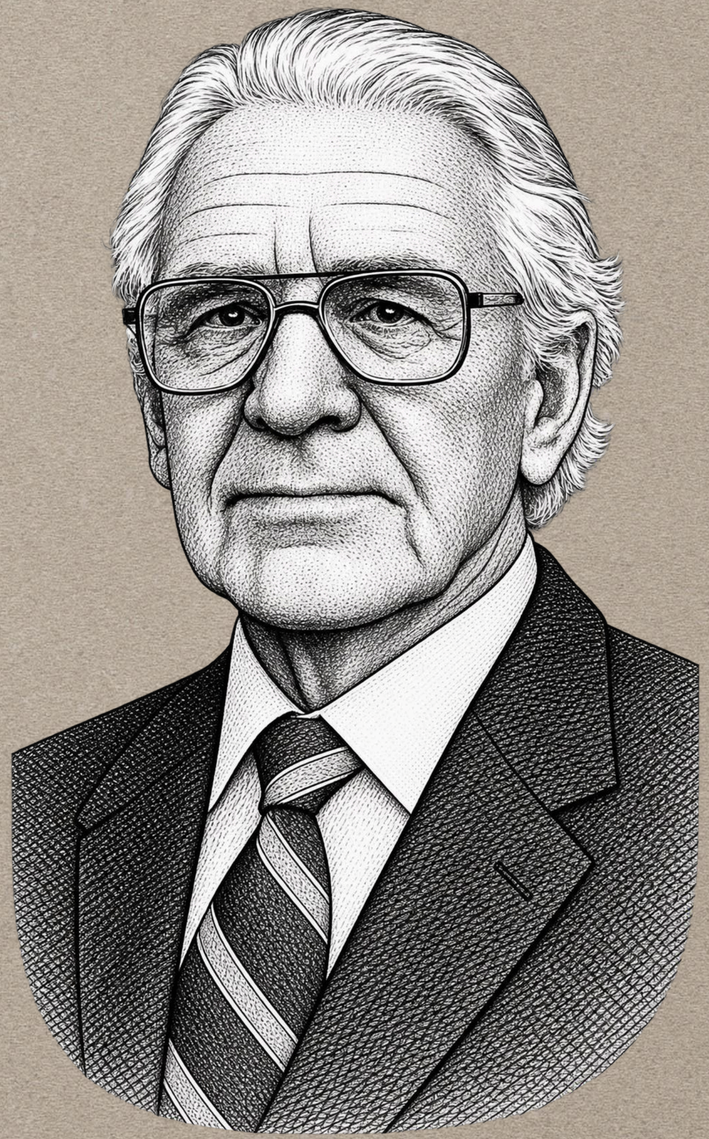
1 Corinthians 3:12-14

GOLD represents our devotion to God.

SILVER represents the encouraging and truthful words we speak to others, including the sharing of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRECIOUS STONES represent prayer and intercession.

Leonard Ravenhill



WHAT ARE THESE REWARDS?

The Crown of Righteousness - the crown of anticipation to those who always look to Jesus

7. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
8. in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

The Crown of Life - to those who love the LORD persevere, endure and overcome.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you **the crown of life**.

Revelation 2:10

The Crown of Glory - for those who shepherd others

1. Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
2. shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
3. nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
4. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory**.

1 Peter 5:1-4

The Victors Crown

24. Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours.
25. Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately and restricts himself in all things. They do it to win a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a **crown of eternal blessedness**] that cannot wither.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

The Crown of Rejoicing & Glory

19. For who is our hope or joy or **crown of exultation**? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?
20. For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

- Clothed in white - the righteous acts of the saints
- A new name - written on a white stone that only Jesus and you will know :)
- If we are conquerors - we'll be pillars in the temple of our God
- If we are faithful and wise - we'll be put in charge of His possessions
- We'll be ruling and reigning with Christ - over cities and over nations in the millennium

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of the Lord.

Matthew 25:23

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, **His reward is with Him** and His recompense before Him.

Isaiah 40:10

3. And He who was sitting on the throne was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.
4. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and **golden crowns** on their heads.

Revelation 4:3-4

10. The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying,
11. Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.

Revelation 4:10-11