

Week 28  
March 29, 2009

**A Question of Identity**  
**The Parable of the Talents**  
Matthew 25:14-30

**The Parable**

- Three servants are entrusted with a great deal of money
- Two servants are praised, one is cast out into darkness

**The Master**

- Gives his servants a large amount of money
- Leaves on a long journey

**The Servants**

- First two servants go to work immediately
- The third servant buries his money in a hole

**The Master Returns**

- Praises the first two servants in exactly the same way
- Speaks harshly to the third servant

**Why the Difference?**

- All acted in accordance with their beliefs of the master.
- Two acted out of mutual respect and trust.
- The third acted out of fear and false beliefs

**Why Does It Matter?**

- Christianity is based in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Beliefs, whether true or false, affect how we understand reality.

**So, How Do We Know Who Christ Is?**

- Jesus Christ is the bread of life (John 6:35)
- He is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for us (John 10:14)
- Jesus is the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25)
- And the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:5)
- Christ is the Passover Lamb, who has been sacrificed for us  
(I Corinthians 5:7)
- The Lord Jesus is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (II Corinthians 3:17)
- Christ is the image of God (II Corinthians 4:4)
- Christ gives us redemption, peace, joy and reconciliation (Romans 3:24; 5:1, 11)
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- In Christ, we are heirs with God and joint-heirs with Christ  
(Romans 8:17)
- In Christ, we are loved: Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to

separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39)

**Who Are We in Christ?**

- We are a reflection of the Lord's glory (II Corinthians 3:17-18)
- We are a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17-19)
- We are ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20)
- We have freedom in Christ (Galatians 2:4)
- We have been adopted by God as His beloved children (Galatians 4:5)
- We have been blessed with every good blessing. We stand holy and blameless before God. We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us (Ephesians 1:3-4)
- We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10)

**Jesus Entrusts Us with His Kingdom**

- In this parable, Jesus is the master who entrusts us with his kingdom.
- What will we do with the gifts He entrusts to us?
- Is it possible that your view of God may need to change in some area?