

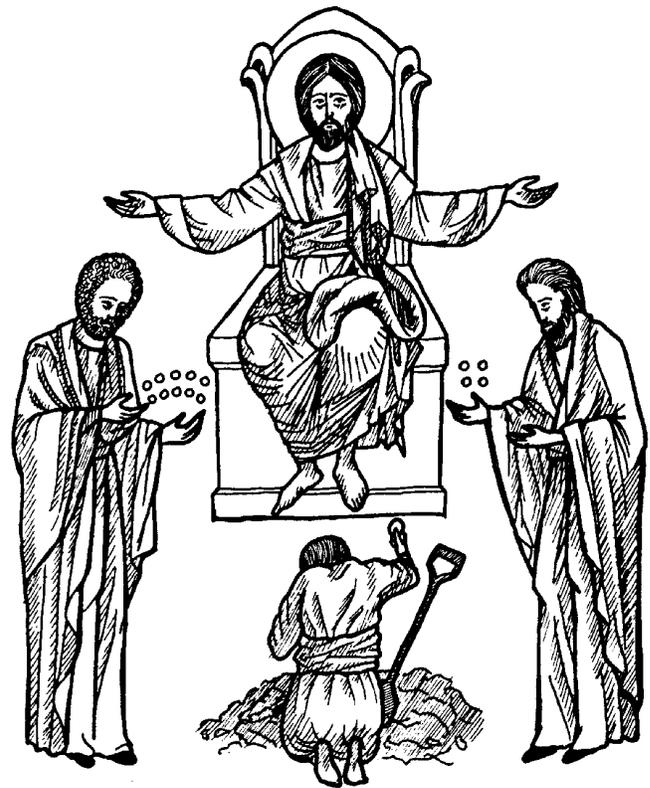
USE THE GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Once a man wanted to go on a journey. He had a lot of money and didn't want to just leave it alone. He called three of his servants before him. To the first servant he gave five talents, or pieces of money. To the second he gave two talents. To the third he gave one talent. After the master left, the servant with the five talents used them well, and made five more for his master. The servant with two talents also made two more. The one with the one talent did not use the money well. He dug a hole and put it in the ground.

When the master returned, he called each servant before him. The first said, "Master, with the money you gave me, I made five more talents. Here are ten!" The master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" The second servant said, "Master, I, too, made more money with what you gave me. Here are four talents!" The master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant." To the first two servants the master said, "Each of you can now be entrusted with even greater projects!" The third servant said, "Master, I know how much you care about your talents, so I dug a hole and buried mine. Here it is."

The master said, "You worthless one! Why didn't you at least put my money in a bank?" The master then gave the one talent to the servant who had ten.

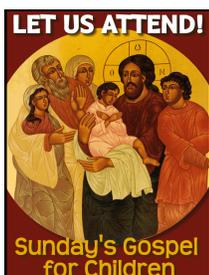
Then Jesus said, "To those who have been given much, much will be added. Those who have little will lose what they have."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

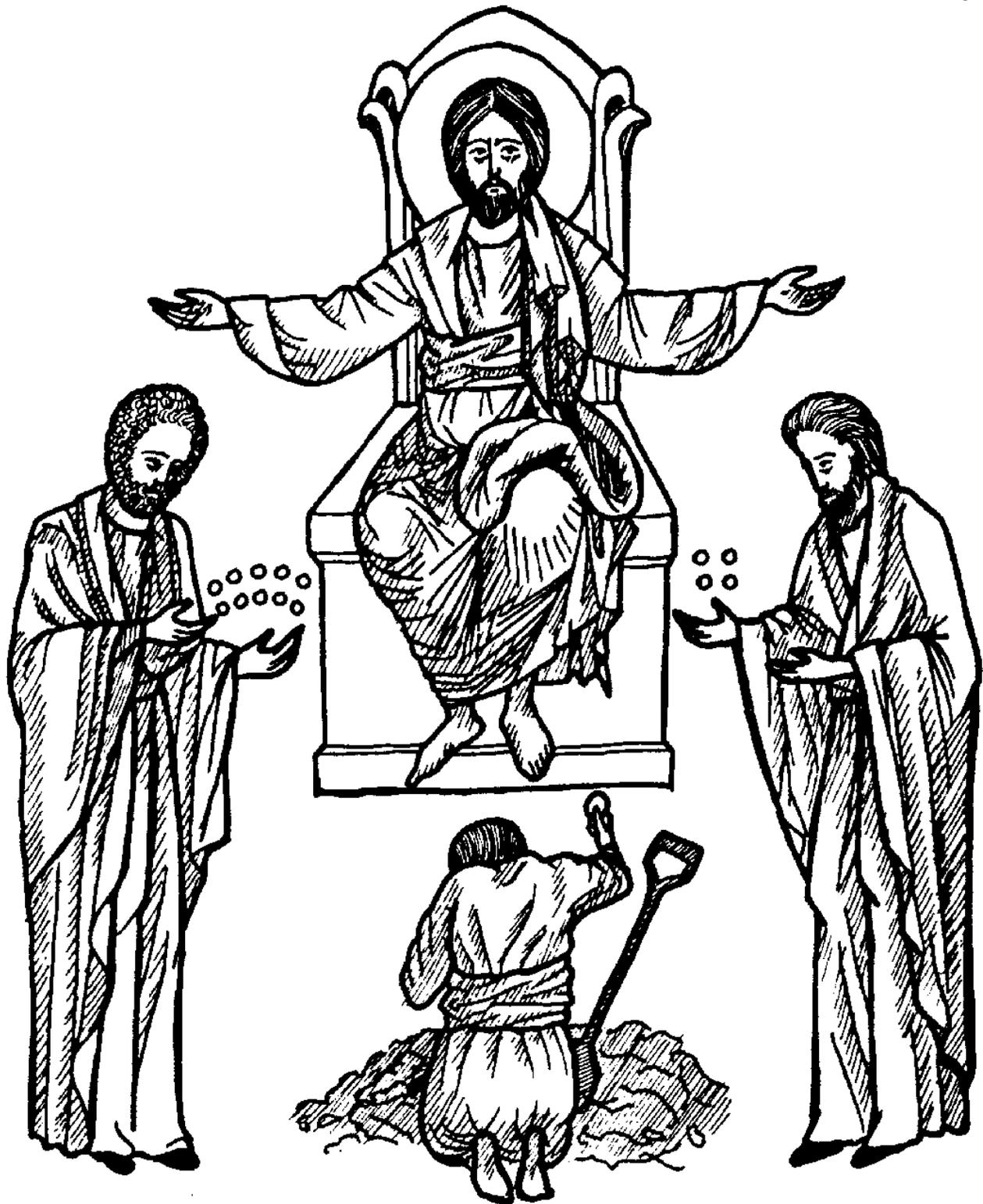
1. In this story, Jesus talked about talents. What were talents in the story?
2. Today our money has a different name, and the word talent means something else. Do you know what it means?
3. Each of us has talents, or gifts. God wants us to share what we have with others. Some talents you have might be making someone feel better, being a good friend, or making someone laugh.
4. The Holy Spirit gives us many gifts. Some of them are joy, love, and kindness. How have you shared these with someone else?
5. When we share the joy we have, then two people are joyful. When we share a kindness with someone, then that person can share it with another. God wants us to share what He has given us.



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Pre-12



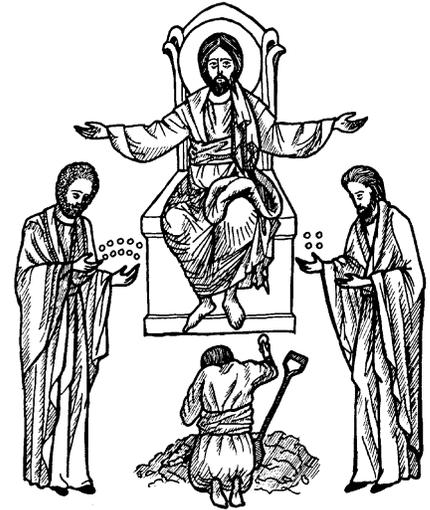
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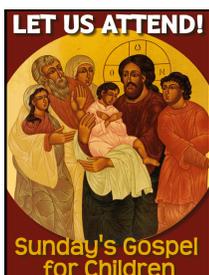
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4. The Holy Spirit gives us many gifts. Some of them are joy, love, and kindness. How have you shared these with someone else?
5. When we are joyful, and we share our joy with a friend, how many people are joyful? When we have been kind to our friend, and they pass along kindness to another person, how many people are feeling kindness? God wants us to share what He has given to us.



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THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'

"And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you

did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

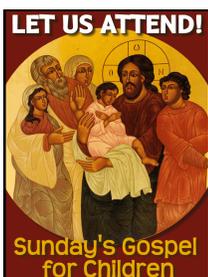
"But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'"



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. The word talent in this gospel means a large amount of money. Does the money in this story belong to each servant or to someone else?
2. Why would someone who has a large amount of money give it to other people to take care of it? What could that person gain by doing that? What could the other people gain?
3. What do you think the servants were supposed to do with their master's money? Do you think they understood this? Why or why not?
4. Who might the master in this story represent? Who do you think the servants represent? What do you think the money is a symbol for?
5. What point do you think this story might be trying to make to us today?
6. What will you do today to show that you have gotten the message?



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THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Master, Servant 1,
Servant 2, Servant 3

Narrator: The Lord spoke this parable:

Jesus: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying,

Servant 1: Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.

Jesus: His master said to him,

Master: Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.

Jesus: And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying,

Servant 2: Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.

Jesus: His master said to him,

Master: Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.

Jesus: He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying,

Servant 3: Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.

Jesus: But his master answered him,

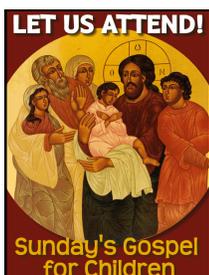
Master: You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

Narrator: As he said this, he called out

Jesus: He who has ears to hear, let him hear.



Image courtesy of sxc.hu



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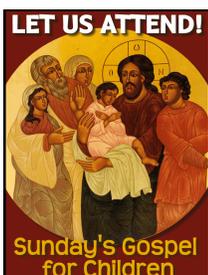
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As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. A talent in this story is a large sum of money. If this story is an analogy for learning, what might the talents be a symbol for?
2. How do the servants get the money they have? Is it their money or someone else's?
3. What does this suggest about knowledge? When a person begins learning something is the knowledge theirs or a gift from someone else? Who?
4. What does the master want his servants to do with the money he gave them?
5. What do you think a teacher wants his students to do with the information he is teaching them?
6. What happens to the money the servant with one talent hid?
7. What happens to the information a teacher gives you if you don't study it or pass it on?
8. What happens to the money the servants with five and two talents trade?
9. What happens if you study the information someone else communicates to you? What happens if you teach someone else that information?
11. If the talents in this story are a symbol of the gift of faith and the gift from God of knowing who Jesus Christ is, what point do you think this gospel is trying to make?
12. What do you think about that?



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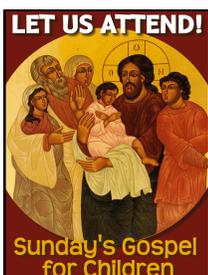
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10. What happens if you teach someone else that information?
11. How is this similar to what happens at the end of the gospel?
12. If the talents in this story are a symbol of the gift of faith and the gift from God of knowing who Jesus Christ is, what point do you think this gospel is trying to make?



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