

**Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew**

**Parable of the Talents**

Read the Gospel Passage for this Sunday  
Matthew 25:14-30

**Contextual Background:**

-A talent was a large sum of money, typically in the amount of silver or gold. Typically 1 talent is seen as what someone with an average profession would make in a 10 year span. Therefore, we can think of a talent not only in terms of material things, but also in terms of effort and even time (years of our life, years of work done for God).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Which of the characters in the parable do you relate most to in regards to managing your finances, responsibilities, time, or talents?
  - a. The first servant—I've been greatly blessed
  - b. The second servant—I've done okay with what I've had to work with
  - c. The third servant—I've blown it
  
2. Why do you think that last servant buried his talent he was given?
  - a. He was afraid of his master
  - b. He was afraid to take risks
  - c. He was lazy
  - d. His mind was on things other than this responsibility he was given
  
3. What are two or three talents or abilities we have been blessed by God with?
  - a. In what ways have we been able to use them for God's will?
  - b. In what ways have we not used them or used them opposite towards God's will?

4. We can also see talents in terms of stewardship, or tangible blessings that are in our grasp (our wealth, the people in our lives, our possessions)
  - a. What are some things God has entrusted you stewardship over that are hard to give up or give back to Him?
  - b. What are some things God has entrusted you stewardship over that are hard to manage?
  - c. In what ways can we “give back” or “sanctify/consecrate” that which we are stewards over?
  
5. What help do you need to use your abilities/talents in a way that “measures up”?
  - a. Help from God to overcome fear
  - b. Help from God to believe in myself
  - c. Help from others to see my talents
  - d. For others to not be so hard on me
  - e. For me to not be so hard on myself
  
6. What motivates you to use your talents/abilities to work?
  - a. Fear of “the master” —my boss
  - b. Approval of “the master” —my boss or my God
  - c. Seeing a completed product
  - d. Helping others is its own reward
  - e. Doing whatever I can to help my employer be successful
  - f. The opportunity for greater responsibility or promotion
  
7. Think about the talents in terms of years of our lives.
  - a. What if the Lord came today and said, “I’m ready to receive you. What have you done with those talents (years) I gave you?” How would you feel?
  - b. How do you feel about the years of life you have lived thus far. Are they pleasing to you? To others? To God?
  - c. What changes would be required for you to be more satisfied with your life?