

Jesus often used more than one story to talk about the same thing. To talk about the end of the world and the beginning of the Messiah's Kingdom, he often told stories about a wedding party. But he also told stories about a king or a master who went away and gave his servants a job to do until he came back.

THE STORY OF THE TALENTS

Matthew 25:14-29

JESUS TOLD THIS STORY ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM! (A "TALENT" IS A VERY VALUABLE PIECE OF MONEY!)

WHEN GOD'S KINGDOM COMES, IT WILL BE LIKE THIS! ONCE, A RICH MAN WAS GOING ON A JOURNEY! HE TOLD THREE SERVANTS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS MONEY TILL HE GOT BACK!

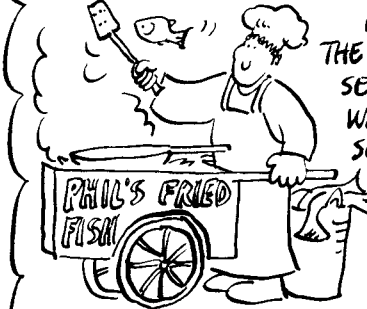
HE GAVE FIVE TALENTS TO ONE SERVANT, TWO TALENTS TO ANOTHER, AND ONE TALENT TO THE THIRD!

THE FIRST SERVANT STARTED A BUSINESS!



PRETTY SOON, HE HAD TEN TALENTS INSTEAD OF FIVE!

THE SECOND SERVANT STARTED A BUSINESS TOO!



HE DID WELL, AND SOON HAD FOUR TALENTS INSTEAD OF TWO!

IF I TRIED TO USE THIS MONEY TO START A BUSINESS, IT MIGHT TURN OUT FINE, BUT IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T! I'D PROBABLY GO BROKE! IT'S NOT MY MONEY... I'D BETTER JUST BURY IT SAFELY TILL THE MASTER COMES HOME!



BUT THE THIRD SERVANT WAS TOO SCARED!

AFTER A LONG TIME, THE MASTER CAME BACK! HE ASKED HOW THEY HAD DONE WITH HIS MONEY!



LOOK, MASTER! MORE MONEY THAN YOU LEFT US!

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, MASTER... SAFE AND SOUND!

(MATTHEW 25:23) BUT AS FOR YOU, YOU'VE MISSED YOUR CHANCE! YOU DIDN'T USE WHAT I GAVE YOU!

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The Bible tells us that Jesus will come to be our King and our Judge. This can be a very scary idea, because we know we have disobeyed God, and wasted what God has given us. But the Bible also says that Jesus has saved us, and made us right with God. As long as we trust him, we have nothing to be scared of!

JUDGES 4:5

(Deborah is a good leader, and gives the people advice under a palm tree)

PSALM 123:3

"Our eyes look to the Lord, until he has mercy on us"

THY KINGDOM COME...
THY WILL BE DONE...

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9

"God did not make us so he could be angry with us. He made us to save us, through Jesus"