THE DENARIUS AND THE TALENT

Parables
September 6, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 19:23-26
- Matthew 20:1-16
- Matthew 25:14-30
- Romans 6:23
- Titus 3:3-8

KEY POINTS

- Parables open a window into the heart of God and hold up a mirror to our need for Him.
- With man, salvation is impossible. With God, it is possible.
- In the vineyard, every worker received the same denarius. Eternal life is a gift of grace, not a wage we earn.
- The early workers grumbled at the Giver, not because they were cheated, but because they compared themselves and felt entitled.
- The Master keeps going out all day. His heart beats with mercy, calling people into the Kingdom from the first hour to the last.
- Grace does not end the story. Jesus is coming back, and we must be ready.
- The talent is the precious gift we have already received — the gospel, the Spirit, forgiveness, time, and influence.
- Works do not justify us, but works prove that we have been justified.
- Burying the gift is consumer Christianity. Good stewardship is taking what grace gave us and pouring it onto others.
- Don’t get caught with a shovel in your hand when the Master returns.

DISCUSSION

- Pastor Bob said these two parables seem opposed, but they head in the same direction. How do grace and responsibility belong together in your own walk with Jesus?
- The workers who started early grumbled because the last received the same gift. Where are you tempted to compare, keep score, or feel entitled before God?
- The thief on the cross came in with “five minutes left.” How does that picture of grace affect the way you view latecomers — or yourself?
- What “talent” has God entrusted to you that you are most likely to bury rather than invest?
- Pastor Bob said works should come from the inside out, not the outside in. What does that difference look like in everyday life?
- Who around you right now needs mercy, presence, or a simple act of stewardship — and what would it look like to give what you have received?
- If Jesus returned this week, would He find you living from grace or standing with a shovel? What is one change the Holy Spirit is asking you to make?