

Here the man with one talent went and buried it in the ground. And the one with more talents went and accomplished something with them. But alas in life there are many of those who have the 10, who have the 5 talents who go and bury them in the ground. I think probably there is a larger proportion of them than there is of the other.

So the first message of this parable for us is that if we take what the Lord has given us and do not really use it for Him, we are ~~slothful~~ slothful. But you notice He combines with it the word wicked. "Thou wicked and slothful servant." I feel that every one of us deserve this condemnation to some extent because there are very few who utilize the talents the Lord has given him to the utmost in His service. He wants us not to be sluggards, and not to be slothful. There is not a great deal in the Scripture about slothfulness, about sluggards. But what there is is quite strong, and quite clear. The Bible has very strong condemnation of the slothfulness of the sluggard.

Unfortunately, if you were to take all the ministers in churches in the world, I fear that you will have to say that 60 or 70% of them deserve a very considerable amount of condemnation in this regard. Because the minister, the servant of the Lord in working under the Lord whom He does not see, and comparatively seldom is he working under men who see what he has been doing. How much more ready most of us are to work hard when there is somebody watching us; somebody in whose commendation we are interested. We are ready to rush about in order to try to please some human being, but the Lord sees us all the time. If we are His servants we should always be conscious of the fact that He has left us here on this earth for certain particular reasons, and if we are going to accomplish those reasons, that work He has for us, we have to not be sluggards. We have to work hard. There are very few people who