

TRINITY 13

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service; Grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. We are only able to do unto God true and laudable service because He has given us a g_____. (James 1:17)
2. How ought we to serve God in this life?
A. f_____ (Revelation 2:10)
3. If we serve God faithfully in this life, what may we hope to attain unto?
A. the heavenly _____ (Revelation 3:21)



INTRODUCTION.

What is the Collect about? God's service—twice mentioned in it. In our Baptism what were we pledged to be? "Christ's faithful soldiers and servants." Some of our Lord's parables are about service. Let us read one of them, the Talents, and see what it has to tell us.

Read St. Matthew 25:14-30 before continuing.

I. THE SUPPLIES RECEIVED.

Why Needed. The servants had nothing of their own, they belonged to their master, their time was his, and all that they used in his service they had from him. That is what the Collect says, "Of whose only gift it cometh," We cannot serve God without His help. We have no power of our own. How often this is taught us in the Collects (especially in the last line where we pray, "through our Lord Jesus Christ" &c.



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2. **What was given.** Talents. What is a Talent? A weight of money not a coin; we may think of it as a bag of money containing many coins., It weighted just over one hundred pounds, a talent weight of gold today (2000s AD) would be worth about \$650,000.

3. **But that is not what we mean by talent.** When we speak of any one's talents we don't mean money at all, but the skill, cleverness, opportunity, which give us power to do good. What does that show? How great our Lord's influence has been in the world. His use of a word has actually changed its meaning, has raised it and made it mean something higher and nobler than it did before. And what are the talents which He entrusts to us, His servants? All our powers of serving Him; some can serve Him with clever minds, power to teach, money, position, leisure time. Some can serve Him with the power of speech, and all with the power of influence—all these are talents. Each of you should ask: What has God given me?



II. SERVICE RENDERED.

1. **What does the Collect say?** (i) **True service;** that is, genuine, real service, not a pretence of work, with nothing done. The only true service is the service of love, the service given by those who serve because Christ has redeemed them. (ii) **Laudable service,** which is service God can praise. See St. Matt. 6:1-7 in order to find the difference between service done to gain men's praise, and how to do it so as to win God's praise.

2. **What does the Parable say?** (i) **There was the service of the servant who "went and traded."** That means he had boldness, courage, enterprise, and skill. He thought of different ways of serving God, new ways of doing His work, or of raising money for His work. (ii) One who can not think of things to do for God, can offer his help to others who have a plan. This is like one who has a talent and puts it in the bank to let it gain profit through interest. (iii) **Then there is the servant who did not serve his master.** He did nothing. He was idle, and hid the money. When it was hidden it was not profiting, and it was actually being harmed, rusting and spoiling. So if we are idle in God's vineyard, we are not only doing no good, we are actually doing harm.

III. SERVICE REWARDED.

The servants who served their master (God) all receive the reward of heaven and God Himself. But some will be nearer to Him than others, and those who are nearest will have greatest joy.

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