

Now, as I said earlier, there are several principles that I call “The Laws of the Kingdom” and I want to talk about what’s probably the most important, the most important law of human growth and development, and I call it “The Law of Use.” The Law of Use.

How does that work...this Law of Use? There was a story that Jesus told about a nobleman who called his servants to him and gave them certain sums of money and then he went into a far country and he said, “You occupy with these until I come back.”

The first one, he gave ten talents.

To another one he gave five talents. To another one, one talent. Then he says, “I’m going away, and I’m going to come back, you occupy with what I’ve given you until I get back.”

So he left and left these people to their own devices.

The one who got ten talents took his master’s money and he began to trade with it. He bought goods. Took them on a caravan ride to the next country, sold them at a profit, bought additional goods, brought them back, sold them at a profit, traded back and forth, until such time as he had doubled his lord’s money. So now instead of ten talents, he’s got twenty talents.

The one who had five talents did the same thing. He exercised what had been given him. He used the money and he made deals. He invested in the stock market. He bought merchandize. He perhaps bought a small business. He did all these things. And when he finished the work he was doing, he doubled his lord’s money. Now the five had become ten.

The next one took the one talent that was given him and he said, “My master is a tough guy. He is about as hard-nosed a businessman as I’m aware of.” He said, “He gathers where he didn’t straw and he reaps where he didn’t sow.” And I don’t want to run afoul of his nasty cruelty. And so what I’m going to do is dig a hole in the ground and put that money in the hole, cover it up and then every so often I’m going to come back and look at it and make sure it’s still there. And when he comes back, I’ll give him his own like I got it. I haven’t lost anything.”

So the lord came back, he had received the kingdom that he’d gone to get and he called the servants to him and said, “Okay, I’m interested in what did you do with my money? What did you do with the trading that I gave you?”

So the one with the five talents said – excuse me – the ten talents, he came and he said, “Well, I’ve doubled your money.” And the lord said, “Well done, good and faithful servant. I’m going to put you in charge of twenty cities. You are in charge of something, you’ve shown that you were responsible and you used my possessions well.”

The one with five talents came and the lord said to him, “Well, what did you do?” And he said, “Well, I traded with your money. I took risks. I’ve had caravans go over the desert, they bought goods, they sold goods, and over a period of time I have doubled your money; so you now have ten talents.” And the lord said, “Well done, good and faithful servant. I’m now going to put you in charge of ten cities.”

The last one that came to him, and he said, “All right, tell me what you did.” And he said, “I knew you were a hard man.” He said, “I knew that you gathered where you didn’t straw, and that you reaped where you didn’t sow. And I was afraid. I was afraid.” And so, he said, “I took your money and I dug a hole in the ground and I put it in it and I’ve now taken it out and I haven’t lost anything.” Do you know what the Lord said about him? It’s amazing – it’s in the Bible, by the way. He said, “You wicked and slothful servant. Wicked and slothful. Wicked! Wicked, because he didn’t invest his Lord’s money. He was wicked because he didn’t use what had been given to him.” And he said, “Take that away from him and give it to the man that had the ten talents.” And there was a gasp in the audience, they said, “My goodness. This other guy’s got ten and he doesn’t have anything, you’ve taken it away from him.” And then the Lord gave this principle. He said, “Unto him who has, more will be given. And he that has not, even what he thinks he’s got will be taken away from him.”