

Y-WoW Nation

Scripture: "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (Matt. 25:14-29 NIV)

Dancing With the Stars

by Elle Bailey

Having been born with clubfeet, a birth defect involving deformed or improperly positioned feet, it probably seemed unlikely that Kristi Yamaguchi would grow up to become a respectable ballroom dancer as she did during season six of the wildly successful TV show "Dancing With the Stars". Considering her congenital birth defect, it was probably even less likely that she would become an Olympic gold medal-winning figure skater. However, that's exactly what she did at the 1992 Winter Olympic Games. How did Kristi conquer the challenge of being born with an abnormality? As a child, she took ice skating and ballet lessons as physical therapy to help correct her malformed feet. She worked hard to remedy her deficiency and, eventually, she excelled at ice skating to the point where she was able to skate competitively, first as an amateur and later as a professional.

Just as Kristi Yamaguchi discovered, there too is a winner in you. Regardless of how you start out in life, you too can become a champion. You *can* finish strong. It's not so much what you have that makes you successful. It's what you *do* with what you have that makes you successful. In the theme scripture for this study, the Master gave three of his servants an amount of money to manage for him while he was away. When he returned, he met with each servant to see how he fared in his absence. The servants to whom he'd given five and two talents doubled their resources. As a result, the Master was extremely pleased with them and rewarded them for their efforts. However, the servant to whom he'd given one talent did not use it wisely. He did not earn any additional money for his Master. Consequently, the Master was very disappointed and extremely upset with him. He was so angry that he took the one talent from the servant and gave it to the servant who'd use his resources most effectively. This parable proves that it's not what you have that makes you successful; rather, it's what you *do* with what you have that makes you successful.

The same way that the Master gave each of his servants an amount of money to manage, God has given each of His children gifts and talents to use both in service to Him and in life. The challenge for each child of God is to discover what his/her gifts are and then learn how to use them productively. Perhaps you've been gifted to write, draw or sew. Maybe you're a talented singer, dancer or musician. Or maybe you're a gifted computer programmer, engineer or architect. Whatever your gift or talent is, use it to glorify God. After all, you're not just a gift to the world, you are a gift to the body of Christ. What's more, you've been chosen to perform a specific work in God's kingdom. Therefore, use your gifts to the best of your ability then trust God with the results. Trust Him to make you whole (healthy). Trust Him to make you victorious. Trust Him to make you prosperous. Most of all, obey Him so that you'll hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" on Judgment Day.

In conclusion, here's an inspirational poem to motivate you to get and stay on the path to greatness. Enjoy!

Life's Rewards

Unless we take a chance or two
in order to begin,
There's nothing we can hope to gain,
no prize that we can win.
We must accept uncertainty,
must set our debts aside,
Be brave enough to risk a loss
or setback to our pride.
We should not be afraid of change,
nor be afraid to dare -
If we just take a chance life holds
rewards beyond compare.

Emily Matthews