

## THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

### Matthew 25: 14-30

14. And Jesus saith unto them, For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who, when he had planned his route and made his reservations at the inns, called his own servants and not his neighbour's, and delivered unto them his goods and instructeth them to take care of his wife and comely daughter. And the servants did readily agree to his wishes, and jostled one another in line.
15. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and having settled his affairs he straightway mounted his ass, and thereafter having climbed upon his beast he took his journey to an undisclosed destination
16. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, buying fine clothes and cloth, and made of them other five talents by holding a fashion show which was well received. And the man's daughter did model the garments. And the prices went up.
17. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two, for he went and bought some dishes and cutlery and glassware and rugs and did trade with them in the market place, offering the same to enhance people's habitat. Except for the fish knives which perplexed many.
18. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money, for he did not dare risk its loss. And he did mark its place on a map with a large cross so that he could find it again. Twelve paces from the fig tree which was shortly to be cut down.
19. After a long time spent in foreign lands the lord of those servants cometh bearing a fine tan and laden with strange hats and stuffed beasts, unheard of coloured liqueur bottles with growths therein, and odourous cheeses, and reckoneth with them.
20. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more, and thy daughter has shewn much skill of display in these costumes. In fact...
21. His lord interrupteth and said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And to his daughter he said, Thou art a delight to many. Develop thy skills so that thy pleasures shall continue to bring profit unto this house. Now go tidy thy chamber.
22. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them, and many houses are now adorned with fine china and floor coverings, and the demand for such is unabated. But there's a lot of fish knives left over.
23. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. I am placing thee in charge of opening many stores and employing many workers. Don't worry about the knives – we'll think of something. Enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
24. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed, and clutching at what is not thine:
25. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth in a clay pot so that the worms should not destroy: and lo, I have dug it up again. There thou hast that is thine, and a pot as well.
26. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed, and groped after things that are not mine:

27. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury, even though Moses said something about that. And the servant did protest saying, But lord, thou knowest that the interest rates are poor and if thou hadst redeemed thy talent before the full term there would have been a surcharge which would have lessened the worth of thy investment. Plus, the clergy were watching me. But the man was unimpressed and declared,
28. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.
29. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And this shall be a guidance for economic business from this time forth. And it shall be called Capitalism. Oh yes!
30. And he declared, Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth and writhing to strange melodies played upon the lute with ten strings and the sound of crashing cymbals, and endlessly repeated banalities. And verily, I've just thought of a use for those fish knives.