

Part 3 – Gain or Lost **(Matthew Chapter 13)**

1.0 Gain or Lost - Matthew 13:12 (KJV) “For whosoever ***hath***, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance; but whosoever ***hath not***, from him shall be taken away even what he hath.” This “***gaining (hath) and losing (hath not)***” is the Law of Life.

If the Individual uses his God’s Given Gifting (or Talent), he grows into it; but the opposite is also true. Jesus teaches that He had hidden the Truth in Parables, not to conceal it, but to reveal it.

The Individual who is responsible and accountable will learn the Truth and receive more while the Individual who is slothful, not responsible and accountable will lose even what he thinks he has.

When we hear God’s Word, we are not participating in a static event, but in a dynamic experience. We either become better or worse for having heard God’s Word. This warning of “***gain or lost***” is used ***five times*** by Jesus in connection with Parables:

1. First Mention in Matthew 13:9-12 is in connection with “***the understanding***” of the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven - “***HATH*** ears to hear” (Matthew 13:9):

- The Secret of “a fruitful heart” is “a hearing ears” (Matthew 13:23).
- Each of the first three Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), gives the Warning at the End of the Section that teaches the “*Parable of the Sower*” (Matthew 13:9; Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18).
- Matthew Exhorts: “Who ***HATH*** ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 13:9).
- Matthew Emphasizes the important of “***giving attention***” to God’s Word (Logos & Rhema).
- Matthew Encourages us to take advantage of ***every opportunity*** to receive God’s Word into our heart.

2. Second Mention in Mark 4:24-25. It is in connection of ***the responsibility*** of having ears to hear - Mark Warns: “Take heed ***WHAT*** ye hear” (Mark 4:24a):

- Mark holds the Individual ***responsible*** for what he hears.
- Whatever the Individual hears ***enters*** into his mind and heart.
- It is ***a Seed*** that is planted, and it will ***bear*** fruit.

God’s Word warns about “***sowing and reaping***” in Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” Christians should be watchful in what he reads, the kind of entertainment he watches, the kind of conversation and music he listens to.

3. Third Mention – It is in connection with ***the attitude*** of ***hearing*** - Luke 8:18 (KJV) “Take heed therefore, ***HOW*** ye hear; for ***whosoever hath***, to him shall be given; and ***whosoever hath not***, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”

- Luke emphasizes the Attitude of the Hearer.
- Many Christians failed to recognize the Voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Many Christians are “dull-of-hearing” (Isaiah 6:9-10).

4. Fourth Mention – Not Using God’s Gifting - In Matthew 25:14-30 is in connection with “*the Parable of the Talents*,” – **“USE IT or LOSE IT”** - that is, if the Individual does not use his God-Given **“Giftings”** (Talent = “According to his Ability”), he will lost them – *Matthew 25:28-29 “Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have; even what he has will be taken away.”*

5. The Fifth Mention – Wasted Opportunity - Is in Luke 19:11-27 in connection with, “*the Parable of the Pounds*” (Minas). It is the basic Principle of the Christian Life that wasted opportunity means loss of reward – **“USE IT or LOSE IT”** - Luke 19:24-26 “*And he (Master) said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina (pound) from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.’ But they said to him (Master), ‘Master, he has ten minas (pounds). For I (Master) say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.’*”

To the person who has “*hearing ears*” and “*seeing eyes*,” and “*understanding heart*,” more will be given to him. To the person who does not has “*hearing ears*,” “*seeing eyes*,” and “*understanding heart*,” what he appears to have will be taken from him - *Luke 8:18 (KJV) “Take heed therefore, how ye hear; for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”* To the person who is faithful with a Servant-Attitude, and use his Talents or Pounds (minas), more will be given. To the person who is slothful and does not use his Talents or Pounds (minas), he will also lose what he does not use.

Summary: It is significant that of the **Five Records** on “Gain” or “Lost” in God’s Word: **(1)** Three Records deals with “Hearing” (“Hath Ears” – Matthew 13:9; “What you Hear” - Mark 4:24a; “How you Hear” - Luke 8:18); **(2)** One Record deals with the use of “Gifting” (Talent – Matthew 25:29); **(3)** One Record deals with “Service” (Pound – Mina – Luke 19:26). The Truths in Matthew Chapter 13 are Applicable not only to Christ’s Generation but to the Church Age. The Truths in Matthew Chapter 13 are **Foundational** and **Preparatory** to the Chapters and Exposition of the Parables. By paying attention to “what” we study and “how” we study the Parables, we will be richly blessed by the Truths in these Parables! - *Matthew 13:15 (KJV) “For this people’s heart is waxed gross (fat), and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*” The spiritual **blindness** and **dullness of hearing** is due to their “heart condition” – Jesus commented that the people’s heart is “waxed gross (fat)” (Matthew 13:15, KJV; “grown dull” – NKJV; “calloused” {“hardened” – NIV}).