

ARE BLACKS TOO FRIVOLOUS

WITH MONEY?

The Parable of the Talents: 1990's style

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Guest Writer

God gave Black people 500 billion talents; he gave Hispanic people 350 billion talents; he gave Asian people 225 billion talents.

He left them alone for one year and then returned to see what they had done with their talents.

God asked the Asian people, "What have you done with your resources?" The Asians replied: "We used our talents and created many businesses and purchased many franchises. We used our resources to assist our families and our Asian friends, helping them to get into business as well."

The Asians continued: "Lord, we knew that with 225 billion talents we could generate even more talents by pooling what we had and working together toward a common economic goal. We have doubled the amount you awarded us. We now have 550 billion talents. And to top it all off, our restaurants are going strong — everybody loves our food!"

VIEWPOINT

The Lord said, "Well done, my good and faithful servants. I will make you rulers over many things."

God then asked the Hispanic people what they had done with their inheritance.

The Hispanics gleefully replied: "Lord, you are really going to be proud of us. Upon receipt of our talents, we went to work right away and formed our own bank. We have one in Florida that ranks among the largest in all the land. And, you know what else? The interest we are making will more than double the amount of talents you gave us."

As God nodded approvingly, the Hispanic people couldn't wait to continue: "We opened fast food shops and sidewalk stands. We sold fruit, enchiladas, and tacos. We supported Hispanic doctors, lawyers, accountants, and all the Hispanic businesses we could find. If a certain business did not exist in

our community, we pooled our resources and started it. We have done very well, Lord, especially considering the short time we have been in this land."

And God said, "Well done, my good and faithful servants. I will make you rulers over many things."

Since God had given the most talents to his chosen people -- Black people -- he couldn't wait to hear what they had done with their 500 billion talents.

Like a doting father, God proudly asked them, "What have you done with your inheritance?"

After turning their music down in order to hear what God was saying, the Black people waved their hands in the air (like they just didn't care), and shouted, "Lord, we just threw the party of the century, and it was all good! Look at those bad rides parked outside. We bought them from the German people and the Japanese people. Wouldn't you agree, Lord, that we did good deeds by helping to make them wealthy, since you gave them so few talents?"

Even God looked perplexed. He asked if there was anything else the Black people wanted to report.

"Oh yeah," they replied. "You haven't heard the half of it. Lord, we're the most charitable people on earth. We spent 95 percent of all you gave us with businesses other than our own. We helped everyone. We didn't discriminate and we didn't play a-hate."

Then one of the Black leaders spoke up: "You know now we like nice clothes, Lord. So after the party, we went out and bought all of the latest styles with all the right labels. You know what I'm saying? We just had to have it -- we couldn't wait. Check us out."

Now the Lord was quite concerned about His people and their attitude regarding their talents. Continuing to probe and expecting to hear something that would make him proud, God pleaded, "Surely you have done something with your inheritance to generate more talents for yourselves?"

The Black people looked around at one another, and one of their "leaders" stepped forward to sum things up: "Lord, we have the finest cars, we eat and drink only top shelf, and we meet in the most elaborate hotels. Our children have several pairs of the latest gym shoes, we make the baddest videos and we throw down -- I mean dance -- with the best of them. Even better than that, we have good jobs to earn back our 500 billion talents next year, and we will again be able to help all the inhabitants of this land."

Sadly, God looked at his people and said: "With what you have done with your talents, you may as well have buried them in the ground. Because of your slothfulness and lack of good stewardship, I will give your future to those who have the least. You have gravely disappointed me by not adhering to one of my most important admonishments: To whom much is given, much is expected." **PRIDE** Aug 5-11/99