

# A Case Study in Leadership

## The Parable of the Talents & Lessons from Two Kings

*Burley Idaho West Stake  
Priesthood Leadership Meeting ~ April 19, 2026*



# The Parable of the Talents

~ Matthew 25:14–30

- One received 5 talents, another 2, another 1
- First two doubled their talents
- Third buried his in the earth

*“Well done, thou **good and faithful** servant.”*

**1 talent = several months' income**

The Savior used a huge sum to get our attention!!



# This Is a Leadership Parable

- The Savior didn't care about the amount of increase — just that there was increase
- The problem: the talent was buried — no growth, no effort, no risk
- The expectation wasn't perfection — it was faithfulness
- Not the same visible result, but faithful increase from each one

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Mormon wrote about **two kings** — just a few chapters apart — who received the same stewardship but did very different things with it.

One **multiplied** it for the blessing of others.

The other **consumed** it for himself.



# Personal Righteousness

## KING BENJAMIN

- “A just man before the Lord” (*Omni 1:25*)
- “A holy man... reign in righteousness” (*Words of Mormon 1:17*)
- Never suffered his people to commit wickedness (*Mosiah 2:13*)



## KING NOAH

- Walked after desires of his own heart
- Many wives and concubines; caused people to sin
- “Placed his heart upon his riches... riotous living” (*Mosiah 11:14*)
- People delighted in bloodshed

~ *Mosiah 11:19*



# Humility vs. Selfishness

## KING BENJAMIN

- **“I am like as yourselves”**

~ *Mosiah 2:10–11*

- **“I have not done these things that I might boast”**

~ *Mosiah 2:15*

- **“I am also of the dust”**

~ *Mosiah 2:26*

## KING NOAH

- Built elegant palaces, throne of gold and silver
- Ornamented seats for priests to “speak lying and vain words”
- ~ *Mosiah 11:8–11*
- Every construction project for self-glory
- **“Changed the affairs of the kingdom”**

# Servant-King vs. Self-Serving King

## KING BENJAMIN

- Served with “all the might, mind and strength” (*Mosiah 2:11*)
- Labored with his own hands
- Refused to be a burden on his people
- Picked up the sword of Laban; fought personally

~ *Words of Mormon 1:13*

## KING NOAH

- Taxed the people heavily (one-fifth of everything) (*Mosiah 11:3*)
- Used resources for himself and his corrupt court
- Built for self-glory, not covenant leadership
- Ran from battle; told men to abandon families (*Mosiah 19:9–11*)

# Use of Councils

## KING BENJAMIN

- Worked “with the assistance of the holy prophets” (*Words of Mormon 1:16–18*)
- Labored with his whole soul to establish peace
- Created order and practical solutions
- Built a tower so people could hear his message

## KING NOAH

- Eliminated his father’s priests
- Replaced them with proud, wicked men (*Mosiah 11:5*)
- Fostered sin and bloodshed
- In crisis, he fled and abandoned his people

# What They Taught Their People

## KING BENJAMIN

- Saw himself as not only king / ruler, but as their teacher (*Mosiah 2:29*)
- Taught repentance, the Atonement, covenant identity
- **His teaching led to joy and spiritual transformation**

## KING NOAH

- **“Deceived by the vain and flattering words”** (*Mosiah 11:7*)
- Led people into idolatry and sin
- Conditioned them to reject prophetic warning

None of us are prophet-kings...

*But we all have a stewardship — a quorum, a class, a family, a ministering assignment.*

**“What have I done  
with the stewardship  
the Lord gave me?”**

