356 Talent

Among diverse people, diverse is the talent. For among the Greeks such as the *calcus* nothing is less in weights, so for the talent. Nothing is greater among the Romans; the talent is 72 pounds. However, there are five kinds of talents, namely, of gold, silver, brass, iron, and lead, just as it is touched on in [1] Paralip. last chapter [20:2], and Zach. 5[:7], and Matt. 25[:15]: “And to one he gave five talents, and to another two,” etc. By the five talents is understood the five kinds of goods which God gave to man, namely, the good of nature for working, which is figured by the talent of brass which does not corrupt, Gen. 2[:15]: “God put man, into the paradise, to dress it, and to keep it.”

Again, the good of grace for working together which is designated by the talent of gold, because among all the metals it is the most precious, 1 Cor. 3[:10]: “I have labored more abundantly than all they: yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

¶ Again, the good of knowledge for teaching, which is designated by the talent of silver, Psal. [11:7]: “The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried by the fire.”

Again, the good for defending the people, which is designated by the talent of iron, which is a malleable metal, Psal. [2:9]: “You shall rule them with a rod of iron.”

¶ Again, the good of victuals for enduring which is designated by the talent of lead which among all metals is serviceable and poisonous just as temporal things are vile regarding spiritual matters. Or according to the explanation of Gregory, *Super evangelium*,[[1]](#endnote-1) the five talents are the five senses, that is, exterior holiness is expressed when with earnest and pious intention someone teaches right things which they can do for those on the outside which they receive. In truth by two of the talents the intellect and working are designated. In truth by the name of one talent the intellect alone is designated.

1. Gregory, *XL Homiliarum in Evangelia* 9.1 (PL 76:1106): Quinque etenim sunt corporis sensus, [Col.1106C] videlicet visus, auditus, gustus, odoratus et tactus. Quinque ergo talentis donum quinque sensuum, id est exteriorum scientia, exprimitur. Duobus vero intellectus et operatio designatur. Unius autem talenti nomine intellectus tantummodo designatur. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)