THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

“LOYALTY AND STEWARDSHIP”

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Scripture: Parable of the Talents

Read Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus compared the parable of the Talent to the Kingdom of Heaven

This Parable illustrates the manner in which God would deal with people at his return to judgment.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Point One: Your gift is not your own. God gave it to you
Matthew 25:15: And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Point Two: God gives us abilities and gifts according to our ability to invest and perform. He makes the distinctions on how gifts are distributed.

Ephesians 4:8: “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”
Sometimes we tend to think that we must “give” our talent to the Lord giving the illusion that it is ours to give in the first place.

All human abilities and skills derive from God and are to be dedicated to his glory and the good of others.

Just because you can play a piano doesn’t mean that this is what God has called you to perform
Moses, What is in your Hand?

Exodus 4:2

Exodus 4:2,3 - And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it

- God used what Moses had in his hand. Moses was a shepherd for over 40 years. Now soon he will lead people.
- “Cast it to the ground.” Your gift is no good until you deploy it for service.
- Moses fled before it. “Are you running from your responsibility?”
A Time of Accountability

- God does take Count – There Will Come a Time of Accountability

Matthew 25:19

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. (NLT)

- Accountability is Not Judging, but Expecting
  - Leaders Inspect What They Expect

- Don’t Bury Your Talent – God expects you to use it
The A’s of Accountability

• The Administering of the Talents

• Attitude of the Servant

• Their Assumption of the Leader
Administering of the Talent

To Every Person According to One’s Ability, Calling, Purpose

2nd Timothy 1:9

Sometimes We Forget that We are Called According to God’s Purpose and Not Ours
The Parable of the Talent

- **Administering of the Talent:** to every man according to his several ability
  - God makes “distinctions” among people in regard to abilities and their attitude to promote the kingdom of God
  - Talents are not just “natural abilities,” but abilities that God can control and utilize for His glory
  - You may be a “talented” singer, but is your gift truly submitted to the Lord, or do you hold your pastor hostage with it?

- The talents are about stewardship. It’s about growing, developing, and using for God’s glory whatever we’ve been given by Him before our Lord returns.
Attitude of the Servant

Apathy

I Was Afraid

Complacent

Servanthood

Integrity
The Attitude of the Servant

- The Attitude of the Servant – Noted as being “good and faithful”

  - This shows that the master looked for goodness and faithfulness in His servants.

- Have an expectation of giving an account - After a long time the lord of those servants came: The long delay would tempt the servants to think that they would never give an account for their management
Characteristics of a Faithful Servant

- One who receives his/her task from the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly
- One who will be diligent in all that he does (Eccl. 9:10).
- One who chooses to please God than to please men (Galatians 1:10)
- One who shows up, performs, and encourages other without an agenda
- One who does all to the glory of God (1st Corinthians 10:31)
- One who demonstrates commitment, competence, and courage
- God does not measure success the same way that man measures success.
  - It is required that the Lord's stewards be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).
  - If we always "serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind" (1 Chron. 28:9) we will be considered a success according to God's way of reckoning.
  - James 2:24 - You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].
Attitude of the Servant

- They had an attitude of “Gain” not “Get” – Good stewards seek what they can gain for the kingdom or the church.

- The unfaithful servant took the talent and recognized his gift, but did not employ his talent for his master.
Attitude of the Servant

- They gave up every thing to their master, without attempting to appropriate any thing in return

  - The Master blessed them for their faithfulness: They received praise. Well done, good and faithful servants (Matthew 25:21)

  - They received gracious promises. Ye have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.

  - They received Glory. Enter into the joy of your Lord. We should see our faithfulness from an eternal perspective
Attitude of Worthless Servant

- See the ingratitude of this servant towards his gift (or gifting)

- See his idleness. Rather than exert himself to improve what he has received, he goes and hides it.

- Hear the absurdity of his reasoning. Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard (or avaricious) man, reaping where thou hast not sown, etc., (Matthew 25:24).

- This very model that sinners in general seek to justify themselves for not serving God; How awfully deceived and deeply depraved must that person be, who not only attempts to excuse his sins or lack of commitment, but to charge his crimes on God himself!
Punishment of the Worthless Servant

- He is reproached. Thou wicked and slothful servant! Wicked - in thy heart: slothful - in thy work.

- He is stripped of what he possessed

- He is punished with an everlasting separation from God and the glory of his power. Cast forth the unprofitable servant,
Attitude Towards the Gift

- People’s attitude or vision towards their gift will determine how they will exercise it.

- If you don’t see the value of your gift and its importance with a kingdom mindset then you will become complacent, apathetic, & unreliable.
Attitude Towards Leadership

I Know Just As Much As the Pastor!

They Just Want My Money!

I Don’t Have to Be Here!

They Need to Recognize ME More!

The Leadership Should Do More For the People!

This is as Much as I am Going to Do!
The Parable of Servant

- **Their Assumption of the Leader** – Your assumptions about your leader or your value of him/her will determine how you will use and employ your talents.

- I knew you to be a hard man: the unfaithful servant made an assumption of the master as we do our leaders in the church

- Many modern servants of God think that when God gives them something, it no longer belongs to God; it belongs to them and they can do with it as they please.

- Therefore I feared… Fear immobilizes us to serve
Attitude Towards Leadership

People Rebel When They Begin To Not Value Their Leadership

- “And the people murmured against Moses, saying….“ (Exodus 15:24) - Usually begins with Words

- Numbers 11:1 - And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; …

There Are Times I May Not Understand or even, “Like” the Way I am Being Led, But I am Committed to Follow.
You wicked and lazy servant

He only had “One” Talent to be responsible for but he did not use it for the Master.

The parable of the unprofitable servant illustrated harsh disapproval for the failure to utilize the talents the master had committed to his trust.

If the Servant was too afraid to use his talent, then he could have at least deposited it in the bank. If we don’t want to serve then at least invest more into the ministry where you are being fed.
1 Corinthians 12:7 - But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

- God has given us each a gift, talent, & ability produced by the Spirit unto profit; that is, for utility, or use; or to be an advantage to the church; for the common good of all.

- The purpose of the manifestation of the Spirit is to benefit the whole church family, not just a particular individual.