

HOW TO MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

Matt 25:14-28

February 24, 2008

The subject of giving brings several emotions!

Fear, anxiety, guilt, or even joy.

Our response is determined by our perspective.

- If we think my money is my money, it will affect how we give!
- If we think we are just giving to the church, it will affect how we give.

I Cor 9:7 So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

I. EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO GOD

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NKJV) Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all.

We must come to realize that everything we have is on _____ from God. What we have is only _____.

II. EVERYTHING WE HAVE COMES FROM GOD

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

Now what is a talent? Here a talent represents _____ God has _____ to me.

There are actually three kinds of talents:

- A.
- B.
- C.

III. GOD GIVES AS HE DESIRES.

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.

The good news is God does not expect you to do more than you are _____ of, he just expects you to do what you are _____ to do.

IV. GOD HOLDS US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE TALENTS HE GIVES US

God expects me to _____ my talents

Matthew 25:16-19 (NKJV) 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

“What did you do with what you were given?”

Matthew 25:20-21 (NKJV) 20 So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, “Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.” 21 His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Notice the 3 types of rewards.

1. The _____ of God.
2. A spiritual _____.
3. A time of _____.

Matthew 25:24-28 (NKJV) 24 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.”

26 But his lord answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.”

Let me share a truth here. God would rather have you attempt to do something for him and fail, than not to try at all.

V. CONCLUSION

How are you living your life?

You can _____ it.

You can _____ it.

You can _____ it.