



Making A Commitment To Faithfulness

Matthew 25:14-30

Westport Christian Church

June 27, 2010

"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

"To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. "In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. "But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, "Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, "Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful slave.

You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. "And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'" "But his master answered and said to him, "You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. "Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. "Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'" "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 25:14-30NASU)

This morning, I would like to ask you a very important question. OK, here it is. At some point and time in your walk with the Lord, have you asked your self, "Is it really worth it?" Have you ever felt like throwing in the towel, giving up, what ever you want to call it?

Whenever we feel like that we must remember that commitment goes beyond feelings. Commitment is vital to the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. Commitment is not an option it is a requirement. A friend of mine, Kim Huffman, use to wear a shirt that stated, "The world thinks Christians should be committed, and so does God!"

Allow me to put our text this morning in context so that we may fully understand the implication. In Matthew 25:1-13, which precedes this text, is the account of the ten virgins and focuses there is being ready for the second coming of Christ.

In Matthew 25:31-46 which follows this text is about the separation of the sheep and goats and focuses on the judgment that will be involved in the second coming.

But in this section of this text it is all about fulfilling your commitment and being faithful to what God has called you to do. In order to keep our commitments and be faithful we need to do three things:

I. POUNCE UPON OPPORTUNITIES

"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. "In the same manner the one who

had received the two talents gained two more.

The king is giving these servants a real opportunity to prove themselves. Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overhauls and looks like work."

The first servant received 5 talents. The second got 2 and last got 1. Our ability and amount of talent is not what is important here. It isn't how much we have that is important – it is what we do with what we have that is important. Your best is good enough no matter how poor it may seem to other people. God is interested in how well you use what He has given you, not in how much you have.

When you have an opportunity to share the message of Christ with someone, then you must seize that opportunity. You have the chance to share with someone how God has changed your life then take that opportunity. We must make it a practice to watch for any opportunity that we may have to share God's love with others.

Sometimes we look around at what others are doing and wonder if what we are doing is worth anything at all. What we must see and understand is the Lord is saying to you and me, when you get to heaven I'm not going to ask you how well you did compared to someone else, I'm going to ask you if you did the very best you could with what you had.

If you did then He will tell you, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your master." If we want to one day hear those words, then we must pounce upon the opportunities that come along. Dr. T. C. Horton entered an elevator one day and called for the floor at which he wished to stop. Always ready to seize an opportunity to tell what God had done for a world of lost sinners, he turned to the elevator boy, and asked, "Are you bound for Heaven or hell?" "I don't know," the startled young man replied. When the desired floor was reached, the elevator stopped, and the door was opened. But Dr. Horton made no move to go. The elevator boy waited a moment, and then said to him, "Why don't you go? The door is open." "So is the door of Heaven," answered Dr. Horton, walking out, and leaving the young man to make the very obvious application. (Sunday School Times)

What are you doing with the opportunities you have?

II. PRACTICE TRUE STEWARDSHIP

True stewardship is using what you have in a way the glorifies God. It been said, some people are like blisters – they never show up till the work is done. We must practice true stewardship and use what has been

given to us.

Ability and talent are not as important as willingness and availability. God looks at what you do with what you've got. Teddy Roosevelt said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

If you are willing to use whatever you have for God, He will bless your effort and increase your supply. Life here on earth is just preparation for eternity. Remember that?

Our responsibility is to do the very best we can with what we have. What He has chosen you to do I can't do and what He has chosen me to do you can't do. While there may be no equality in our creation or what God has called us to do, when it comes time for rewards, God will reward us equally if we have sincerely done the very best we could with what God has given us to do. God is saying to tell us, do the very best that you can and your best will be good enough to please me no matter how poor it may look to you or how poor it may look to other people.

One day God spoke to Moses on the backside of the dessert and told him to go lead His people out of Egypt. We all know how he felt. He felt he couldn't do it; he felt he didn't have the ability to do what God wanted him to do. As a matter of fact, Moses said, "I can't talk good," my brother Aaron, he's a good speaker but I don't think I'm the man for this job." You've felt that way haven't you? What's your excuse for not doing what God wants you to do?

Two men were talking with each other. The small man says to the big man, "Boy if I was as big and strong as you, I wouldn't be afraid of anything. I'd go out into the woods and find me the biggest meanest bear and I would tear him limb from limb!" The big fella smiled, stroked his beard and said, "Well, there are a lot of little bears in those woods too." (Unknown)

Each and every one of us must practice true stewardship and use what God has given us.

III. PROVE OUR ACCOUNTABILITY

In our text we read where the Master came back "after a long time." The three servants had plenty of time to prove themselves. The point that I want us to grab here is that accountability is inevitable. We just don't know when the accounting will take place.

We recognize that the "Master" is Jesus, and it is clear that the time between the "going away" and the "returning" is the age which we are

living in now. We must recognize that at the time of Jesus' second coming, there will be a period of judgment, or "settling of accounts" in the language of the parable. We know from other passages of Scripture, including the one that follows this one, that the most important thing at that point is whether or not you know Jesus and He knows you! That is the crucial question.

However, this parable asks another question as well: "what did you do with what I gave you?" Let me be clear that this is not a salvation-by-works kind of thing, or a reward-for-good-deeds kind of thing. What has been given to us? Life in Christ—new life, abundant life, Spirit filled life—and a response that pleases God is one that multiplies that life. We are given freedom, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the power to live, as God desires. We must understand our responsibility to actually live that life in our world and see how it multiplies and God's Kingdom grows. With that life comes gifts and abilities for sharing that life, more to some than to others – the point is that we use what God gives us. We must step out of our comfort zone and take risks. We must follow through on our commitments. That is how we grow. The one talent in our text represents people who don't grow. They are not willing to change. They want things to stay as they are. But faith that stays the same soon dies.

CONCLUSION; God gives different talents to people. We may not be equal in our talents but we can be equal in our effort, and that is what God is looking at. The reward for faithfulness is more work and responsibility. Punishment comes from doing nothing. If we do not use what you have, it will be taken away and given to someone else who will use it. There is a double reward for those who faithfully keep their commitments: 1. They are put in charge of many things and will have abundance. 2. They get to share in the joy of the Lord!

Up on the roof of a newly constructed church was a nail whose only job was to hold a shingle in place. The little nail hears all the people talking about all the fancy fixtures and the elegant designs of the building and thought to himself, nobody even knows I am here. If I am that insignificant no one will miss me if I am gone. So, the little nail raised its head, released its hold, slid down the roof into the gutter and the force of the rainwater took it down the spout and into the mud. It rained and rained and the wind blew and soon the shingle that had been held in place by that nail blew away. The roof began to leak. Water streamed down the walls. Plaster began to fall. The carpet was stained. The open Bible on the pulpit was ruined. All this happened because a jealous little nail thought he wasn't important. But what of the little nail? While holding the shingle in place he may have been obscure but at

least he was being useful and he was doing what he was created to do. Now the little nail was just as obscure in the mud but now he was useless and would soon be eaten up by rust. God is calling all of us to a life of commitment to Him!

Amen!