

I'm Doing the Best I Can with What I Got

Matthew 25:14-19 (KJV) - 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. 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. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Matthew 25:14-19, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. I'd like to tag today's didactic sermon with the title "I'm Doing the Best I Can with What I Got!!!"

Jesus is a tremendous storyteller as he shares an illustration of what the kingdom of Heaven is like. He tells a story to help us understand and relate to a profound principle of investment and return. One servant receives 5 talents, one receives 2 talents, and the other receives 1 talent according to his own ability. As we embrace the essence of the message we must focus on the facts that talents referred to gold, money, or something of value. The master was entrusting his own talents (goods) to his own servants. This means that the 5, 2, and even the 1 talent belonged to the master. We thank God for His grace because He gives grace to us in a special way. What do I mean by that? Well, grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, When He ascended on high, He led a host of captives, and gave gifts to men." (Eph.4:7-8) You have a unique gift (s) that was given to you from above. Hallelujah, somebody. It's important that you use that gift (s) to the glory of God. I'd like to share with you a few points as we work through the text, and then I will conclude.

- **The Master called his own servants.**

According to the text, after a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "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.' 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.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His Lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'

"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. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.' (Matt. 25:19-24) The relationship is between the master and his own servants. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor.6:20) You and I have been bought with a price. Praise be to God. Tell somebody, I'm determined to 'Do the best I can with what I got.'

- **The Talents belonged to the Master.**

The talents belonged to the Lord of those servants. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every person to profit withal. (2 Cor.12:7) So they were entrusted with a blessing from their master. The objective was for each person to profit withal. This literally means that you will do well and the church will benefit from you utilizing the gift the Lord has blessed you with. Oftentimes, people who have gifts to minister, sing, and are helpful, were on fire for the Lord at one time but have gotten frustrated by one thing or another. In their frustration, they have chosen to sit on the side lines or have determined that they aren't coming to church and aren't going to use their talent (spiritual gift) to bless the church or others. Maybe the Mayor doesn't recognize your gifts. Maybe those on the job don't recognize your gifts. Maybe members of the church don't recognize your gifts. Don't stop utilizing the gifts God has blessed you with. ***What you've got to realize is that the gifts you have aren't yours to bury!!!*** You see that is why the servant's sin was so great. If the talent belonged to that servant, he could have buried it. But, it wasn't his to bury. O' Good God Almighty. You've got gifts for a divine purpose and you must use your gifts to the glory of Almighty God. Wipe your tears, stand up and say... My Lord... I'm doing the best I can with what I got!!!

- **Wicked and Lazy Servant**

"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. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So, take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. ***There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***' (Matt. 25:26-30) Our Lord is the wisest investor in our existence. That voice that you have. God did it.

The ability to cook. God gave it to you. That musical gift... God gave it to you. The ability to be hospitable and kind so that others feel comfortable around you as you usher them into the service. God did it. That gift of planning that you have. God gave it to you. That gift to encourage others. Didn't God bless you with it? The gift to preach and teach. O' Yes. You guessed it. God gave it to you. Don't look to the left or to the right at what others may have, but use all that you have for the glory of God. Tell somebody, I refuse to be so sorry that my condition is depicted as lazy and wicked!!! (Whoa!!!) My heart is fixed and my mind is surely made up and I'm determined to do the... I'm determined to do the... ***Well, I'm doing the best I can with what I got!!!***

In closing, at times it may seem that others don't want to recognize or even use your gift. I came to encourage you today, to understand that God has given you that gift for a divine purpose. Use it. Use it. Use it. Don't sit down, don't sit on the sidelines. Use it to the glory of God. Use it to the glory of the church. Use it to be a blessing to others in the local community and the community abroad, but by all means, use it... ***again, what you've got to realize is that the gifts you have aren't yours to bury!!!*** You see that is why the servant's sin was so great. If the talent belonged to him, he could have buried it. But, it wasn't his to bury!!! He was stripped of the one talent that he had, and it was given to another. There was punishment and pain for him (cast into outer darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth). I'm doing the best I can with what I got!!! Let's make sure that the Lord doesn't come back and catch us with our work undone. Matthew 7:21 says "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16) I may not sing like Luther Barnes and I may not preach like the Apostle Paul, but I'm doing the best I can, with what I got!!! Hallelujah, Amen.