

ARE YOU WASTING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES?

Mat 25:14-30

Introduction

The Parable

1. The universal distribution of unequal responsibilities to all professing Christians by God (*verses 14-15*).
 - The talents are not abilities or skills (*verse 15*).
 - The unequal distribution of responsibilities is a fact of creation and providence.
 - The point here is that God has given us the opportunity according to what He has designed us to be (*Rom 12:3*).
 - The issue here is, did we give back a maximum return to God when given the opportunity? Not about the significance of the opportunity or talent itself.
2. Our response to the responsibilities given by God (*verses 16-18*).
 - The diligent servant ‘went at once’ to work. “The servant must be prompt, active, and efficient in promoting the interests of his Master,” says Plummer. That is the fruit of inward salvation.
 - There is the diligence, taking the risks and hard work, not just investing the money and gaining the profit from others’ hard work.
 - The main point: be faithful to maximize the spiritual gains of our opportunities for His glory and that often involves hard work and risks.
 - The third servant played it safe. He avoided the risky work of buying and selling. He wasted his privilege and opportunity.
 - The significance of the opportunity whether it is great or small is not important but how we respond to it.
3. The reckoning all professing Christians must face one day with God (*verses 19-25*).

- We are not to use our own opportunities and abilities for our own glory. Our assets are God’s assets and they are to be used to honour and praise Him.
 - There is a judgment before us according to our works.
 - The master approves the integrity of the first and second servants’ heart. He is not just commenting on their services, but on their character and diligence.
 - The third servant:
 - He is not a man who is wicked and anti-God.
 - He just does nothing with the talent.
 - He produces no fruit in his life. Service for him meant merely avoiding doing wrong, rather than embracing the gospel with such faith that it results in active, faithful, and fruitful service.
 - For him, God is just too ‘hard’, too condemning, too judgmental, too ungracious and demanding. Religion is too difficult for him.
 - This is a big insult to the Giver of Promise who through the Apostle Peter has promised to all believers that “*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire*” (2 Pet 1:3-4).
 - According to Jesus, he is a non-believer.
 - His attack on his master reveals further of his character.
 - Apostle Paul: “For I am ready being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will reward to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”
4. The reward and condemnation in the day of reckoning (*verses 21-30*).
- The reward for good service is promotion with expanded and higher opportunity.
 - In addition, “enter into the joy of your master.”

- Life with God will be joyful because we will be with the One who designed and created us and knows what suits us (*Ps 16:11*).
- The important principle of spiritual life: Fail to use our talents, we will forfeit them. Use it and it develops and grows.
- The servant **who does nothing** will be consigned to **hell**.

The Lessons for us

1. Seize the first and primary gospel opportunity: believe in the gospel.
2. There is no spectator Christian. The gospel is far more than a call to salvation. It is also a call to holiness, to love, and to service. The attitude of waiting for our Master's return by doing nothing for Him, while seeing others busy is not an attitude of a believer, a child of God who is loved by Christ and the Father.
 - a) There is no reason that we are not given any opportunity.
 - We do not lack opportunities for service. We just need to open our eyes and begin to serve.
 - b) There is no reason that we do not have any ability.
 - No ability is insignificant because all are given by God and God can use it well.
 - Have a willing heart and take the risk. Turn the disability and tragedy into opportunity.
 - c) There is no reason that we do not have spiritual gifts.
 - We must not create the wrong impression that one only serves Christ when one is using one's gifts directly in the work of the gospel.
 - The real question is, are you using His gifts, whatever that gift is, to serve Him and His kingdom or just serve yourself, your own name, pleasure and fame?
 - Our family
 - Our business and employment
 - Our income and money.