

Title: Embracing Our Purpose

Text: (Matt 25:14-30; LK 19:11-27)

- I. **God has to be 1st:** Matt 6:33
- II. **God Ownes Everything:** Ps 24:1
 - a. **Earth & it's Produce**
 - b. **World & it's Inhabitants**
 - i. **God Owns Me:** 1Cor 6:19-20
 - 1. You are not an accident!
 - 2. You were made for Eternity.
 - 3. Life it a temporary assignment.

- III. **Everything Created for God's Pleasure:**
 - a. Made with a Purpose in mind.

(Rom 11:36) *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

(Eph 2:10) *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

- b. Col 1:16 *"For Him" - It's not about me.*
- c. Jesus is our example and is the full embodiment of the Glory of God.

(John 6:38,40) *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*

And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on

him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- IV. **I am a Steward of God:** 1 Pet 4:10
 - a. Def - A Steward is a manager of someone else's stuff for Owner's benefit.
 - i. "Received the Gift"
 - ii. "Manifold Grace" – Many, Different
 - b. "To Minister those Gifts one to another"
- V. **We got Everything from God:** 1 Cor 4:7
 - a. Time, Talents, Treasure, & Health
- VI. **We are to faithfully serve for God's Benefit not our own:** 1 Cor 4:1-2 We are to Benefit God's Kingdom, not to build our own
 - a. **We are to be obedient in this:** James 1:22
I am His steward, Obedient or Disobedient!

Both parables were given within a week of each other.

Luke at Jericho at Zacchaeus home approximately a week before Calvary.

Matt a few days before Calvary on the Mt. of Olives

Why did God give us this purpose and entrust us with His resources? Life is about TRUST

He was leaving for a long time – Lk 19:12 *To receive a Kingdom.*

Matthew 25:14

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.

He is coming back Matt 25:19; Jn 14:1-3; Titus 2:13

Long Journey- He could return at any time: (Matt 24:42) *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”*

We didn't initiate this calling and responsibility, God called us to this Purpose.

The Distribution of the Master's Assets

It is the Master's Talents, not the servants.

(Matt 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.

“*Several Ability*” – Distribution according to our own peculiar capacity for service.

Each Vessel has a capacity, and these endowments are given so the vessel is to be full to capacity.

God endows us with responsibility and opportunities which match our abilities. God is Fair-

we all like to say the God doesn't give us more than we can handle. - This eliminates room for Excuses.

This is where people get frustrated in life. They are lusting after someone else's abilities.

Focus on what God Gave you!

Your Spiritual Gifts

Your Desires

Your physical Abilities

Your Personality

Your Experiences

There were given to on purpose by God, for His Purpose.

(1 Cor 10:31) *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Work in your area of Strengths.

Outside that can be like working against the grain!

Takes more effort, time, and produces less results.

GOOD NEWS! Our Capacities can be increased! Sometimes people get mad at God because they want more of the blessings but are unwilling to work on their character and abilities to increase their Capacity.

We can Increase our Ability for more Capacity

(Ecc 10:10) *I am not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I have to be willing to work on me and to put more effort to the work.* - **Read books, Be Discipled**

Increase our Character - Can He trust us with more?

(James 4:3) *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

Life is a TEST.

(John 15:2) God wants to trust us with more so He works on us to be more useable. (John 15:2) *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

Don't get mad at God that He puts you through trials, they are to make us more useable by conforming us to the image of Christ. (Rom 8:28-29)

Matthew 25:16

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

(Mat 25:17) *And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

Stewardship should increase the Master's wealth.

God wants us to bear fruit! Vs 16 *Traded with the same*

HE GOT BUSY! Bearing Fruit and increasing our capacity requires WORK!!!

(John 15:8) *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

(John 15:16) *I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:*

(Matthew 25:18) *But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

Digged- People put forth so much effort in avoiding work.

Hid - We are not to hoard God's Stuff. This is a complete misuse of God's resources (1 Pet 4:10)

A Day of Reckoning: He is going to come back!

Matthew 25:19 *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

(2 Pet 3:4) *Where is the promise of His coming? "Long Time" - Don't mistake His long absence as approval of our service to Him.*

He is Coming and will Require an explanation.

(Rom 14:11-12) *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

(Matthew 25:20) *And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*

Lord, thou deliveredst unto me –

They Recognized who actually owned the Talents.

(Matthew 25:21) *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

(Matthew 25:22) *He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*

(Matthew 25:23) *His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

(Lk 12:35-44) He rewards us according to our Faithfulness and Diligence, not according to our Capacity.

The Master praises their Character, not their Production

(Luke 16: 10-11) *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the **TRUE RICHES?***

(Mark 14:8) *“She hath done what she could.”*
Are we doing all we can in our service to God?

It’s never been about Equal Results, but Equal Effort!

It’s never been about Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice!

PARENTS: Praise Character, not Talent or Ability.
Diligence, Faithfulness, Hospitality,
Generosity

They both became “*ruler over much*” and entered “*the Joy of the Lord*”.

See the Promotion in their reward?

As God elevates us in our careers, can He count on us to Give Him the credit?

(Matthew 25:24) *Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that*

thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

He defames the Master. Infers that He is Unfair.

People blame God for their poor character.

“I was born this way” “I had a hard upbringing”

We all have a tendency to disregard the truth when making excuses for our disobedience.

This is Disobedience! No Matter how we define it.

(Matthew 25:25) *And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

I WAS AFRAID – To Infer God is Cruel!

(Matt 25:26) *His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*

The Master denounces the servant’s lack of character, not his lack of production.

(Matt 25:27) *Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my*

coming I should have received mine own with usury.

He cared not for Master the welfare or benefit he could be to the master.

He could have at least given it to someone else so that they could be a blessing to the master.

Matthew 25:28

(Matt 25:28) Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

God's purposes will be accomplished! With or w/o you.

There are 2 kinds of people, those that say "*Thy will be done*" And those that say, "*Alright then, have your way*"

You are robbing yourself of a blessing.

Like Cutting your nose off to spite your own face!

Spiritual Abilities are like Physical Abilities.

Atrophy sets in when not used.

Use them or Lose Them!

(Matt 25:29) For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him

that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30

(Matt 25:30) And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(Luke 12:45-48)

It's Time to Embrace our Purpose!

It's Time to settle the Issue –

Who are we going to live for? God or Ourselves?

Embracing God's purpose begins with committing ourselves to Him in Salvation.

Embracing God's Purpose for our Life is Living for God's glory

Embracing God's Purpose for our life will require a change in our priorities, daily schedule, and relationships.

I. We are a Steward of God whether we wanted to be or not: 1 Pet 4:10

a. *Def - A Steward is a manager of someone else's stuff for Owner's benefit.*

i. *"Have you Received the Gift?"*

ii. *"Manifold Grace" – Many, Different*

1. Focus on what God Gave you!

- a. Your Spiritual Gifts
- b. Your Desires
- c. Your physical Abilities
- d. Your Personality
- e. Your Experiences

iii. *"To Minister those Gifts one to another"*

God's business is a People Business

b. Benefiting God's Kingdom is serving others.

c. Are we building our own Kingdom or His?

d. **We got Everything from God:** 1 Cor 4:7

i. **Is it Your Stuff??? Or God's???**

ii. He gave them, He can take them away

e. **We are to be faithful to serve for God's Benefit not our own:** 1 Cor 4:1-2

f. **We are to be obedient in this:** James 1:22

Have you Embraced God's Purpose for you?