

Resting in God
"Freedom from who you used to be"

Study 24

Matthew 25:14-29 (New International Version)

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more.

17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.

18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

Jesus lived a life of abandonment. If you were to analyze His life, even from a worldly perspective, you could never say that it was dull. In fact, if the standards of God were accepted by the world, there would be many who would love to take on the extreme challenges presented by it simply to make themselves feel successful.

In reality, the life lived through Jesus is the most exciting life that is available for created mankind. Even the angels are astonished at what has been done for fallen man. (Ephesians 3:10) When the kingdom is grasped, and the decision to enter into it by the power of the Holy Spirit is submitted to, it is like kicking in an afterburner to your Christian walk. The normal falls away, and the spiritual becomes prominent. Life is never the same, and it surely is never dull.

The story of the talents is a story of stewardship. It is also a story about investment. For this writing, it is a challenge to live all out for the Lord, unencumbered by the fears and challenges presented by lower kingdoms to hinder us from achieving a full and meaningful life.

Think of the privilege of being given a task by the Lord Himself that He will complete in you. Think of the wonder of finding out what your reason for breathing is really all about. Think of the joy of knowing that an optimum life is available to you if you choose to live it. Think of the astounding privilege of being in the center of God's will each and every moment you live until you meet Him face to face. Think of the immeasurable pleasure you give to Jesus as He is allowed to be glorified because you embrace what He has won for you and done for you, without restriction.

Living in God's final frontier, the Kingdom of heaven, under the complete Lordship of Jesus Christ is the most thrilling life imaginable. When He lives through you because of your unrestricted submission,

you get to go where He goes. You get to participate in those things that are important to Him. You have the privilege of being involved in the implementation of the plans of God to those around you, all by His unbeatable power and authority.

All of the heavens are poised to do the will of God. All authority is available to Him to accomplish His will. What better place can anyone possibly be, than to be in the center of that kind of action, that kind of eternal impact on a world that is in agonizing peril, looking for the answers you have for them through Jesus?

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Stewardship begins with submission. Full submission does irreparable damage to the lower kingdoms and advances the Kingdom of God immeasurably. As stewards of the Gospel there is no better way to present it than to get out of the way and allow Jesus to present it through you. Your repentance of your old ways allows the ways of Christ to be live through you. The more you submit to His ways, the more trustworthy you become, the more you get to participate in with Him.

Start wherever you can right now. Find out what He is asking you to set aside in your life. Submit to His power to remove that sin from you. Watch with a spiritual excitement as His power overtakes the strangle hold that sin has had over you. Continue to submit to him until every residue is gone, no matter how long it may take. Then, when he has removed your sin, rejoice in the freedom you have because you have participated in one more miracle that glorifies the work of Jesus. Remain there until He chooses to focus on your next limitation. Then move with Him against that until you are free from it. Then the next, and the next until you delight only in His ways and are free from yours.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

The knowledge of being in the very center of God's will allows you to have a quiet kind of rest in your spirit, no matter what challenges the lower kingdoms may be presenting to you. Finding that place of confidence of knowing that Father God is always for you because you have dedicated everything to Him is a place of solace reserved for you on the lap of your loving Father.

When the work of submission is accomplished, when the heartfelt repentance has taken place, when full surrender to the changes that need to take place in you are your honest desire, the peace and rest that has been won for you on the cross is available to you. It is untouchable by the lower kingdoms and yours to rest comfortably in, as you reside in Christ.

For thought or discussion:

Are you truly a steward of everything you've been given

Is your stewardship of the days you've been given in order