

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Profitable Service

In a parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus condemned the “unprofitable servant” who failed to use his blessings of opportunity and ability. The slothful servant’s condemnation was not based upon the fact he began with only one talent but that he ended with only one. As the principle of the parable shows, God provides His servants with opportunities and abilities. The key is not how much we receive but how we react to that which we receive. How we react to our responsibilities is proportional to our faith, our desire and our relationship with the Master, Jesus Christ. Our reaction determines the reward we shall receive now and also at the final reckoning.

Responsibility to Serve: No one is empty handed when it comes to ability to serve God; thus, none can please God while slothful and useless in His service. The Lord claims the time, abilities, opportunities and energy of His servants when He commits to them the work He would have done. He, being the Master, has the right to so do (Corinthians 6:20; 4:2). Truly, not all have the same ability (Matthew 25:15). The two talent man did not receive five talents nor was as much expected from the one talent as from the two. God gives to each one that which he can use and requires of each one only that which he can do; hence, all can be faithful in that which they have. God requires all to so be. That being the case, honor comes not from the magnitude of our ability but from our faithful use of what we have.

Reaction to Service: What determines the results we attain and the reward we obtain is our reaction to service? The men with two talents and five talents held a positive view of service. The five talent man did not criticize or look down on the others; neither did the two talent man feel inferior because he did not have five (I Corinthians 4:7). They got busy with what they had. They did not fear the work at hand or their master. With faith in him and in their work, they sought to please him by their service.

The one talent man had a negative view of service. Perhaps he thought the more gifted person’s ability to do more freed him from any responsibility (Ephesians 4:15), He planned to do nothing and that is exactly the plan he followed. He hid his talent and tried to minimize its importance but he could not hide from his master (Genesis 3:8; Revelation 6:16-17). As he viewed his talent as “little,” more often than not, we fail in the “little” things (Luke 16:10-12). Many think if one keeps himself from wrong deeds he does well. What about the need to do something? May one not sin by omission as well as commission (James 1:22; 4:17; Luke 12:48; I Peter 3:10-11)? The one talent man’s fear came from a lack of faith. Fear hinders one’s use of his abilities and prompts one’s use of excuses (Matthew 25:24-25).

Rewards of Service: The reward of the faithful is increased trust, greater blessings and higher service (John 15:2). No accolade of man can compare with acclaim from the Lord. Thus, the faithful shall receive the rewards of faithful service now and the reward of Heaven after this life (Revelation 2:10; 22:3; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Was the master’s rebuke of the faithless unfair? The Lord called him “wicked and slothful”. He did not waste his master’s money in immoral living. He was neither a liar nor a thief, but he did not use it as he could have and should have. His talent was taken from him and given to the man who had ten. Though he had received only one talent, he was held responsible for the use of that one. Many times brethren say, “I’m just like the one talent man.” What they oftentimes mean is they plan on using none. Their condemnation shall be as sure and just as that pronounced on their “unprofitable” brother of old.

Reckoning at Last: After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them” (Matthew 25:19). Reckoning is certain. Appropriately, the verses immediately following this parable present the judgment when Christ comes back: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory...And these [the wicked] shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:31-46). Not all shall receive the same reward but each shall receive the proper reward. As one has said, the test is not how smart or how able but how faithful we have been. Have we done our best? God will not accept less and he does not

demand more.

A servant of the master was cast out. Why, because he was unprofitable. Where? to the outer-darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. No sane man wants to follow him, but are we serving so as to insure we shall not?

Are we “good and faithful” or “wicked and slothful” or “profitable or unprofitable” in His service? We shall surely be one or the other. Friend, which are you?

--Bobby Liddell

Prayer Requests

Maxine Newton is in Odessa Regional Hospital—Room 504. She fell and messed up her hip. There are plans to take her to Madison Medical Resort for physical therapy. Maxine celebrated her 90th birthday on Thursday, March 29th. Prayers are needed.

Winford Hambright is back at The Parks Living facility after undergoing tests at the hospital. He is in room #303.

Jimmy Weaver had some testing done last week in preparation for his hernia surgery which he will have soon. He too, is back at Parks Living. Continue to keep Jimmy in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Glenda Hillis underwent a knee replacement surgery on Monday, March 27th at Medical Center Hospital. Her surgery went well and she will be scheduled for rehab when she is released.

Jackie Rex saw her doctor on the 27th concerning her foot. She will have to stay off her foot for another month. She still has a hair line fracture in her foot and the doctor wants her foot to be completely healed before putting any weight on it. Jackie will start a (light) physical therapy program to help strengthen that foot. No driving for now. Keep her in your prayers that her foot is well again soon. Jackie misses everyone.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Elsie Bradford; Bill & Mary Brown; Bill Butler; Glenna McCarty-Callendar; David Castor; Beth Clay; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; Dana Erwin; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; David Guynn; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Eliseo Lopez; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Elvia Ruckman; Montrella Ruffner; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Verlie Snyder; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Laura Vasquez; Jurlean Warren; Doris Weakland; Jimmy Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Wanda Wheeler; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley; John Wood; Jack Wright.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Jennie Fuls; Roberta Hamil; Janis Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Psalm 34:20 declares, “He keepeth all his bones, not one of them is broken.” According to Numbers 9:12 (speaking of the sacrifice) we read, “They shall leave none of it unto the morning nor break any bones.” When Jesus was crucified between the two malefactors, the legs of the two malefactors were broken, but Christ’s were not. How was this avoided?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

There were twelve Judges.

Events

Watch *“In Search of the Lord’s Way”* every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the *“Speaking the Truth in Love”* program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

The *“Tipton Children’s Home”* from Oklahoma will be in Odessa on April 10th-12th. They need **Spaghetti Noodles and Diced Tomatoes.**

The *“New Mexico Children’s Home”* will be back in Odessa June 5th, 2018. They are requesting **55 Gallon Trash Bags.** Monetary donations also accepted.

Is Christ’s Blood Necessary?

Often people reason “If I am good and if I treat others well that is enough. I don’t have to follow any particular religion.”

But the Scriptures say otherwise: “...almost all things are purged (cleansed) with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

“In Him (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...” (Ephesians 1:7). Revelation 1:5 declares our sins in His own blood.”

Is Christ’s blood necessary? Yes, “...if we walk in the light (of truth) as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His (God’s) Son cleanses us from all sin” (I John 1:7). We can’t be ‘good enough’ to remove one stain of sin. Only the perfection of Christ’s blood can do that.

–Bulletin Digest

April 1st, 2018

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lord's Supper
West...

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Dex Dennard
Jr. Munoz
Richard Siler
Cody Wesson
Trinidad Wood
Gary Loving

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
John Wood
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
George Warren
Bill Brown
Tom Sorenson
Chris Butler
Communion
(In Library)

East...

Josh Wells
Richard Siler
Tommy Garcia

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Allen Weakland -362-1403 *Deacon*: Jr. Munoz 363-1309 *Pulpit*: Chris Butler 362-7486 *Table*: Scot Straw 301-0549 *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702 *Collections*: Tommy Garcia 638-2702

Sunday AM

“The Resurrection & the Life”
(John 11:25-26)

Sunday PM

“Untrodden Way”
(Joshua 3:1-5)