

## **Title: Advancing The Kingdom of God is Every Believer's Responsibility**

**Text:** Matt 25:14-30, "*For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling.....*"

**Introduction:** In God's Kingdom, God deals with people in His government similar to how earthly government and organisations operate. For example,

- Promotion is based on performance.
- No employer wants to reward a lazy employee who doesn't want to improve on his skills to maximise his potentials and advance the organisation.
- No employer will reward an employee who does not want to use his skills for the advancement of the organisation.

That is why we need to pay attention to the message in the parable that we are about to read, because, what Jesus wants is what we must do and how Jesus sees things is how we must see things.

Jesus used parables to teach those of us who are His followers His Commandments and what He expects of us. So this parable is for our learning:

*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. **Rom 15:4***

**In** His parable of the talents, Jesus illustrated the kingdom of Heaven by telling us the story of a man or master who was going on a long journey, but before embarking on his long journey, he called together three of his servants and entrusted his money to them individually, to invest for him while he was gone.

To the first servant, he entrusted five talents of his money, two talents to the second servant and one talent to the third servant; dividing it in proportion to their abilities and expecting them to make profits for him before he returned.

*vs.19-23*, tells us that after a long time the master returned from his trip and called his servants to give an account of how they had invested his money.

*vs.21*, tells us that the master discovered that the first servant doubled his investment. When the master saw this increase, he was full of praise - 'Well done, my 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.'

Next was the second servant who had received two talents with his report in vs.22. He also had doubled his investment and the master was similarly full of praise when he found out he had doubled his investment as well:

*vs.23 "the master 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.'*

What the first two servants had achieved was just the beginning of their colourful destiny. They had proven themselves faithful; and as a result, the master saw a bright future ahead of them. Their faithfulness resulted in promotion and greater responsibilities. The first two servants had passed a test on a lower level, now their master was satisfied to lift them up into even more monumental life assignments with rewards. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities; let's celebrate your achievement together.

*Luke 16:10, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."*

Investing what God has deposited in you, into the lives of others is the key to your reward, your uplifting and colourful destiny in life, both with God and man.

The stage is set for a great revival in the Church after this pandemic is over like we have not seen in a long time. This is the season of a great revival, and it's not going to be business as usual in the Church. Jesus expects every one of us to partake in it and do something significant with what the Holy Spirit has entrusted to us.

*1 Corinthians 9:17, "for if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship."*

*Col 3'23&24, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."*

Now let's look at the third servant: when the master came to the third servant, the one with one talent in vs. 24&25, He said:

*"Sir, I know that you are a hard man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth and here it is; it is yours take it."*

*vs.26, "The master was very cross with him; he said 'you wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*  
*vs.27 'Well you should at least have deposited my money into the bank so I could have some interest."*

The master did not accept his excuses for a lack of increase, it didn't matter how difficult the situation was, how many odds were against his servants, or how impossible it seemed, the master still expected increase. His servants understood that this was his expectation. Hence the servant who did nothing with his talent found himself in trouble.

His master called him 'You wicked and lazy servant'; you unprofitable servant; you non-productive servant. The words Jesus used carry the idea of a person who has a do-nothing, sluggish, lackadaisical, lethargic, indifferent, lukewarm attitude toward life.

This is how strongly Jesus feels about those who are indifferent and sluggish about investing in the advancement of the kingdom of God. Master Jesus has no taste for lackadaisical people who are indifferent, and lukewarm about advancing the Kingdom of God in spite of the talent and talents, the God-given abilities the Holy Spirit has deposited in them.

Those who are indifferent about advancing the Kingdom of God over the kingdom of the devil; indifferent about their kingdom assignments leave a sickening taste in the mouth of Jesus and He said I will vomit you out of my mouth.

*"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." Revelation 3:16*

Nobody likes lukewarm coffee; nobody likes lukewarm tea, or lukewarm rice and beans, or lukewarm chicken and chips. Everyone enjoys hot food. God wants you to be hot for Him, always hot in spite of circumstance. He dislikes the lazy attitudes that keep people from reaching their maximum potential. That is why He called the non-productive servant unprofitable which means useless, and good for nothing servant; a servant whose existence in life is absolutely pointless. An aimless and purposeless person who contributes nothing to the advancement of the Kingdom of God will not be rewarded.

*Luke 16:10, "and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."*

The third servant's potential was not realised because he buried the talent that God gave him. Some people have latent potentials, latent qualities, latent power lying undeveloped, buried on the inside of them. This servant had a choice like everyone else had a choice to invest. He could have become something significant if he had used what was entrusted to him and multiplied it, and then he would have done what his master asked him to do, but because he didn't, the master said,

*vs.28 "take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents."*

I think this would be the response of any employer who discovered a time-waster on his staff. *Luke 16:1&2*, tells us that;

*“There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. The master called him to hand over the account of his management, and sacked him. Wasting resources, time and energy is not accepted in the Kingdom of God.”*

Rather than throw away more time waiting for an unprofitable, non-productive person to get on with the program, a smart employer will take his responsibility from him and give it to someone he knows can get the job done right. That’s what Jesus meant by saying

*vs. ‘29 ‘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.*

This is the truth in any organisation: Those who are good workers, who the boss can trust to get things done will always have a full plate of responsibility, because the employer can trust this employee’s ability and appreciates his willingness to do whatever it takes, whatever it is necessary to complete the assigned task with excellence.

Therefore, he keeps piling more and more on this person who he knows that he can trust this reliable, dependable person that can deliver. This is precisely what Jesus meant when He said,

*‘vs.29, ‘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.*

A lazy indifferent lethargic worker, who consistently performs below expectation, should not be rewarded. Rewards are given to those who deserve them. If a person consistently fails to do his job correctly, or on time, or if he consistently does his assigned task with a grumpy, complaining attitude, he shouldn’t be surprised when he’s not rewarded and the new and bigger assignments are delegated to someone else besides him.

Now let us look at the statement the master made in **verse 30**, he said:

*‘And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

The means that the master has zero tolerance for laziness and non-productivity, and that’s the reason why the master wants the unprofitable servant gone as quickly as possible. *‘Throw him out of the organisation, expel him as quickly as you can, toss him out of here. He’s not worthy to be here.’*

Imagine what this person would feel like after being kicked out because of his laziness, later sees others doing exactly what he was asked to do but failed to do because of his lazy and indifferent outlook on life? He would feel sad and jealous.

The Master in this parable is an illustration of Jesus Christ Himself and how He feels about believers who have been given great potentials but are too lazy to get up, and work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God and by doing so, develop the potential that has been entrusted to them.

We must understand that God has called and deposited talents in each of us for the benefit of advancing His Kingdom:

*We are co-labourers with God. For we are labourers together with God: .... 1Co 3:9.*

Jesus was constantly employed in advancing His Father's Kingdom:

*My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. John 5:17 "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Gen 2:15*

We need to work in whatever capacity God has called us into for the advancement of His kingdom tirelessly:

*Ro 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*

Every believer has enough to do to occupy all his time in the kingdom in this pandemic season - the stage is set for a revival. God has assigned us much to accomplish; and He will hold us answerable for the faithful performance of it. So we must not be slothful in the business of the Lord:

*Rom 12:8 ... he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*2Co 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

*Ro 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us - according to the talents that is given to us, according to the abilities that is given to us:*

*let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.*

*Ec 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...*

*And John 2:5 "Whatever He says to you, do it."*

And as we do whatever He says, He rewards us because we are faithful:

*Mt 25:21 "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.'*

The two servants were rewarded for their work and that's why the Bible says that *'the labourer is worthy of his reward'* **1Tim 5:18**

*Mt 10:10 'for the workman is worthy of his meat*

*Lu 10:7 "And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages.*

Don't go from house to house begging, don't go from house to house pleading for help, it's not necessary because Jesus says that the worker is worthy to receive his wages because he worked for it.

*Mt 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.*

So we are Co labourers with God, Working as co-labourer with God for the advancement of His kingdom is the key to your wages, you are enlisted on God's payroll. It's the key to your reward and elevation in elevation in life.

The servants were rewarded according to their accomplishment, and we noticed that they were rewarded individually. Everyone will be rewarded individually according to his accomplishments in the Kingdom and not as a body. It's according to what you do, the servants were rewarded individually and not as a group.

*23 "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.'*

The two servants worked for the master's interest and made profits for him on his behalf. God's greatest interest on earth is the advancement of His kingdom over the kingdom of darkness. And He needs you and I to advance His Kingdom agenda and as we work with Him as co-labours we are rewarded.

## **In Conclusion**

***Lam 3:40** Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.*

***Hag 1:7** So says the LORD of hosts: Set your heart on your ways.*

*Jesus used this parable to teach those of us who are His followers what He expects of us.*

***2Ti 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

***1Co 9:10** Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? It was written for us, so that he who plows should plow in hope, and so that he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

***1Co 10:11** And all these things happened to them as examples; and it is written for our warning on whom the ends of the world have come.*

### **Prayer Points for today:**

- Pray against lethargic spirit that seeks to hold you captive
- Pray against the spirit of slothfulness that wants to hold you captive
- Pray against the spirit of procrastination that wants to waste your time and resources for the advancement of the Kingdom of God
- Tell the Lord to release grace upon you to be faithful and reliable servants:
  - Grace to be productive co-labourers with Jesus
  - Grace to maximise your potential
  - Grace to fulfil kingdom assignment

### **The Holy Communion:**

Pray for forgiveness of sins.

I bless the bread and wine and whatever you have. I declare it holy as the symbol of the blood and flesh of Jesus Christ.

I pray that as you partake of this communion your eyes will be open

I pray that God will give you spiritual understanding to know what you ought to do in this Prophetic season of revival.