



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Your Responsibility!

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

This parable describes the consequences of **two attitudes** toward Christ's return. The ones that received five or two gifts developed their gifts, but the one that received the one gift left it dormant. Do not make excuses for neglecting your assignment. The person with the one gift excuse was the hardness of the master, and he was afraid. We see throughout **Scripture** men of God made excuses (Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah) why they couldn't go forward in their calling God has chosen them to do. God gives us time, gifts, and other resources according to our abilities, and He expects us to invest them wisely until He returns. We are responsible to use what God has given us. **The issue is not how much we have but how well we use what we have.** Instead of making excuses why you can't do what God has called you to do, ask Him to give you the strength and the wisdom on how to go about using the gift He has given you.

People of God let us be careful that we do not get caught up in the cares of this world and become unfruitful and lose out of the kingdom of God. James 2:14 says, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" **True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts and does what God requires of us.** The master divided the talents/gifts among his servants according to their abilities. No one received more or less than he could handle. (v. 15). **If we failed in our assignment, our excuse cannot be that we were overwhelmed. We must not make excuses to avoid doing what God calls us to do.** If God truly is our Master, we must obey willingly. Our time, abilities, and money are not ours in the first place—we are stewards, not owners.

God considers it as a sin. The man with the one talent/gift was thinking only of himself. He hoped to play it safe and protect himself from his hard taskmaster, but he was judged for his self-centeredness. He was considered as wicked and slothful. Romans 12:1 says, "Not to be slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." When Jesus' parents were looking for Him, "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). The Word of God states various men of God who were rebuked because of their sinfulness (Eli, Saul, David, and Ahab).

"Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). God has invested something in each one of us and we are accountable concerning our stewardship. Jesus Christ has divine ownership of the souls of mankind, "all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine" (Ezekiel 18:4). However, when we neglect our assignment, it is a sin and we act like the foolish man that built his house upon the sand. God's people will experience spiritual loss because of our imperfect service. "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (1 Corinthians 3:13).

There are benefits for being a faithful servant: spiritual abundance of joy, life, grace, power, supplies of your needs, and entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the Word of God, it shows that God always rewards the faithful for their service. The servants that had five and two talents/gifts He said, "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" (Matthew 25:23). **If** we refuse to use our gift God has given us, He will take it from you and give it to another.

If you neglect to use your gift, we will be cast away to outer darkness. The unprofitable servant will be punished for being unfruitful and castaway to outer darkness. **In other words, we have cheated ourselves out of going to heaven.** Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." When we ignore, squander, or abuse what we are given, we are rebellious and will be punished.

God has invested in all of us spiritually. People of God don't bury or allow the gifts God has given you lay dormant or undeveloped because of being afraid. Jesus Christ has made a spiritual investment in us whether you have five, two, or one gift. Paul told Timothy, "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee" (2 Timothy 1:6). If we do not use the talents/gifts He will withdraw them from us. The person who diligently prepares themselves by investing their time and talents/gifts to serve God will be rewarded. The person who has no heart for the work of the Kingdom will be punished. God rewards faithfulness. Those who bear no fruit for God's Kingdom cannot expect to be treated the same as those who are faithful.

May you be blessed and encouraged to fulfill your assignment!