



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### **The Priority of Obedience!**

**Focus Verses:** Matthew 7:24 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 25:24-25 - 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: <sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 7:21-27; 25:14-30

**Truth About God:** God's Word is the only sure foundation for the Christian life.

**Truth For My Life:** I will rely on God and not on myself.

After Jesus, Sermon on the Mount, He told of two builders. Jesus said, *"<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."* (Matthew 7:24, 26). Both houses faced the same forecast, but only one house still after the storm because it was built on a rock. **Jesus likened this house to whosoever hears His Word and obeys it.**

It is impossible to claim to be a Christian who loves and serves Jesus Christ but refuses to hear and obey the Word of God. Obedience to God is necessary first because Jesus Christ commanded it. *"If ye love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). God sent stern words of warning to the people of Israel through His prophet Ezekiel concerning hearing and doing His words. *"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness"* (Ezekiel 33:31). Our obedience to God demonstrates our faith in God and our worship of Him. What a blessing obedience to God is in our own lives and in the lives of others who are touched through our acts of obedience, whatever they might be

Jesus told another parable of the talents. The man anticipated he would be gone for a while, so he distributed talents to three servants. The man anticipated these three servants would put their talents to work to grow his wealth during his absence. After a long time, he returned and settled accounts with his three servants. The servant that had five talents and the one with two talents double their talents, but the one with one talent hid it. His Lord called him a *"wicked and slothful servant"* (Matthew 25:26). The servant with one talent was not condemned because of lack of production; he was condemned because of lack of obedience or effort.

Some people worry because they feel their giftings do not match the abilities of others. Some believers even excuse themselves from doing anything at all because they cannot do what others can do. God's blessings are not based on production in the Kingdom but on our obedience to God's call on our lives.

God gave us gifts and talents, but He does not expect us to operate strictly out of our human strength and abilities. He desires us to submit our human faculties and abilities to Him and allow Him to use us as we serve His kingdom. **The proper key to the effective use of our human abilities is to rely on the strength of God rather than on our own human strength.** When we rely on Jesus Christ, we can accomplish anything He desires us to for His kingdom. Sadly, some people become so reliant on their own human abilities that they lose sight of the empowerment of Christ and may even turn from the commandment of the Lord. **It is dangerous to become so self-reliant that we fail to live a life of obedience to God and His plan for our lives.**

The gifts and talents God bestows on us are only a blessing to us and to others when we devote their use to the Lord and His kingdom. If we assume they are too meager or insignificant to bless anyone or bless the kingdom of God, they will remain dormant, unused, and small. When we obey God and entrust their usefulness to His hand, these gifts and talents become significant and helpful in His kingdom. If we bury them like the servant with one, solitary talent, we will stand before God in shame and judgment. But if we put them to use in obedience to our Lord, we will become increasingly effective within His kingdom, and He will increase our usefulness and Kingdom responsibilities.