

Sunday, May 24, 2020

## WORKS..God has established for us to do them

\*Parable of Talents meaning revisited:

- Each man given different amount of talents(works) each according to his own ability. Work that each was capable of doing.
- Be faithful, steadfast, unwavering, and devoted.
- Be diligent not lazy. Physically and spiritually.
- The master expected his servants to do more than passively preserve what he had been entrusted to them.
- Do not allow fear to trump faith. Verse 25 “I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth...”
  - **2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”
  - **Isaiah 41:10,13 (NLT)** “10 Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. 13 For I hold you by your right hand-I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, ‘Don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.’”
- We will be held accountable. Verse 28 “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver.’”
  - **1 Corinthians 3:13 (NASB-New American Standard Bible)** “each man’s **work** will become evident; for the day will show it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s **work**.”
  - **Revelation 20:12-13** “12 ...and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their **deeds**. 13 ...and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one (of them) according to their **deeds**.”

\*Same Greek word for **work** and **deeds** is ergon (er'-gon).

We are to do the absolute best we can to walk in the works that God has prepared for us to do using our skills, gifts, and talents to bring glory to God. Our best job is being obedient to God.

**\*Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)** “For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

- Need to know we are His workmanship. Hand-crafted by God.
- Not through our own power but through Christ in us
- Have a willingness for Christ to live His life through our lives
- Be confident that the works He has planned are good
- Trust Him with our story and go forward

\*Walking in the works that God has prepared for us begins with praying “Here I am Lord”, “Yes, Lord”, “Send me”.

\*To effectively pray the above, we need to first submit and respond to God’s will, in order to respond to God’s will we need to perceive (become aware of) His will, in order to perceive God’s will we need to have our heart, mind, mouth, eyes, and ears devoted to Him, in order for our heart, mind, mouth, eyes, and ears to be devoted to God we need to guard (watch over in order to protect/control, protect against damage/harm) them. We can only do this by surrendering to God and having the Holy Spirit in us.

### **\*Heart devoted to God**

- 826 references to the heart in the Bible
- In scripture when heart is referenced it generally refers to place where emotion and desires begin.
- What drives our will, words, actions
- Inner being – our emotions, intellect, and moral makeup
- **Ephesians 4:17-19** “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles (nations not worshipping God) also walk, in the futility (emptiness) of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them because of the hardness of their heart; and they having become

callous (cease to feel pain for), have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”

- Hardened heart- Greek porosis(po`-ro-sis)-stone harder than marble.
- Saved hearts, renewed hearts, hearts indwelt by the Holy Spirit – equipped, empowered to fight temptations
- Guard our hearts – **Proverbs 4:23 (NASB)** “Watch (Hebrew-guard) over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”
- **Proverbs 3:5** – Trust in the Lord with all your heart
- **Deut. 6:5** – Love the Lord your God with all your heart
- Surrendered(cease resistance, submit to authority)heart

### **\*Mind devoted to God**

**\*Romans 12:2 (NASB)** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- **Isaiah 26:3** - Steadfast mind-kept in perfect (complete) peace, trusts in God
- **Romans 8:6** – mind set on the Spirit =life and peace
- **Colossians 3:2** – set mind(Greek-heart, thought) on things above (heaven)
- **2 Corinthians 10:5** – bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (positive and negative)
- **Philippians 4:8** – think on these things-true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good report, excellence (moral goodness), worthy of praise.

### **\*Mouth devoted to God**

- **Proverbs 21:23** - guards his mouth and tongue, guards his soul from troubles (distress, anguish).
- **Proverbs 10:19** - many words, transgression is unavoidable, but if restrain are wise.
- **Proverbs 17:28** - a fool, when he keeps silent is considered wise.
- **Proverbs 12:19** - Truthful lips will be established forever....”
- Instructed to:
  - **Proverbs 12:18** - bring healing

- **Colossians 4:6** - speech always be with grace (kindness), and seasoned with salt.
- **Ephesians 4:25-27, 29**
  1. Not lie, speak truth
  2. Not let sun go down on your anger
  3. Let no unwholesome word come from mouth
  4. Speak only what is good for edification

### \*Eyes devoted to God

- **Luke 11:34** - eye is the lamp of body
- **Matthew 5:29** - right eye makes you stumble (cause to sin, become indignant, offend), tear it out (take out, remove, to deliver) and throw it from you

### \*Ears devoted to God

- **Isaiah 55:3** – listen so that you will live
- **Proverbs 18:15** – ears of wise seek knowledge
- **Jeremiah 9:20** – hear and receive the word of God
- **Revelation 3:22** – he who has an ear, hear what Spirit says

### \*Holy Spirit in us

- **2 Timothy 1:7** - God has given us a Spirit of Power
- **John 16:13** – will guide us into all truth, only what He hears from God He will speak and tell us go
- **John 14:26** – Holy Spirit will teach us all things, bring to our remembrance what God has said
- **Romans 8:26-27** – helps in our weaknesses, makes intercession for us
- **Matthew 10:20** – speaks thru us
- **1 Corinthians 2:13** – Holy Spirit teaches us

Jeremiah 7:23(NASB) “But this is what I commanded them, saying, obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.”

\*See yourself as chosen by God and go do the works He has for you.