

To Whom Much Is Given...

March 16, 2016

I feel led to pause from the "Prepared for the War" series to bring something to the forefront of our minds. Last week the Lord brought this verse to my mind as well as a new way to look at it:

Luke 12:48b - For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

What was impressed upon me while thinking of this verse was that my mindset was limited on this. When the Lord gives us something we are required to do something with it. This is exactly what this verse means but my thinking was geared toward gifts and talents. For example: I have a God-given talent for writing so I am required to use that for His glory and honor. This type of example holds true but the Lord wants our thinking to go beyond our gifts, talents, or spiritual offices we are called to walk in.

"To whom much is given, from him much will be required...". Here is what I believe the Lord wants us to understand. Our gifts and talents were created in us long before we even knew what they were but He has given us so much more than what we may classify as our God-given talents. We are required to have an understanding of the "much" that has been given.

We have been given the free gift of salvation through His sacrifice on the cross. Once we receive it, what else is required of us from this "much"?

Psalm 35:9 - And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation.

We are to be joyful and rejoice in the Lord and the salvation He has given us.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

We are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling (I take this to mean having the fear of the Lord [beginning of Wisdom] and being obedient to Him and Him alone).

There is another "much" that came to us by His sacrifice and resurrection; the Holy Spirit.

John 7:38-39 - He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

First we have to believe in the Lord then comes the living water, Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

When Holy Spirit brings something to our minds it is of the Lord to help grow our understanding of who the Lord is and what He truly requires from us. This requires spending time in the presence of the Lord and being obedient to whatever Holy Spirit gives us. He only gives us what is of the Lord which goes far beyond our God-given talents. We must remember that Holy Spirit dwelled in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout His life and ministry.

John 16:8-11 - And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Lord is calling us all to go deeper in and with Him. This means learning to look at things through His eyes and not our own. When we look at the Biblical text and each other with the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit we can see a bigger picture than ourselves. Seeing the bigger picture, the greater purpose as God ordained it, we will see and understand the true meaning of "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand".

-Alicia Shipe-