

Becoming Something More

Matt. 25:14-30

If you could change your life to accomplish anything you wanted, what would it look like? The good news is that becoming something more is not only possible, it's available in Christ. (I Cor.3:21)

If you would like to go beyond dreaming about it and hoping for it, there are a couple of other questions to ask. Here are the questions.

What have you already been given?

There is much revelation for every believer in this parable of the talents. We are shown in the story how each of us can become more than we are right now, and we are also shown the reason we are not if we're not.

In the story, we're told the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country. He is a wealthy man. Clearly the man represents God in the story. Notice what the man did. He called his servants (salvation) and delivered his goods to them (mission).

So what have you been given? Is it possible that what you need to become something more is already in your possession? Here are some questions to ask:

- What is in your heart? This represents desires. What God gives, He places in our hearts as passions. We have to draw them out.
- What is in your hand? This is what the Lord asked Moses when Moses questioned his ability to accomplish God's mission for him to go back to Egypt and liberate God's people. This is the question God is asking us today. In our parable, the man gave his servants talents, according to their abilities.
- What is in your house? In 2 Kings 4 a woman came to Elijah for help because her husband died with debts and the creditors were coming to take her sons to be slaves. Elijah asked, "What do you have in your house?" She said she had nothing but a jar of oil. This is all God needed. Likewise, you may not think you have what you need in your

house, but God doesn't need a lot. For example, we have family in our house. Two are better than one, for they have a good reward for their labor. We may have books and recordings for inspiration. We should also have a vision wall that can give us inspiration as well.

Besides the question "What have you been given?," here's the next question. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 the least, and 10 the most, how much of what you've been given are you using right now to multiply God's investment in you? The answer should not be that you haven't had the opportunity. (Eccl 11:4 – He that observes the wind will not sow, and he that regards the clouds will not reap.)

Here is what you need to do to move up on the scale from where you are and become more fruitful and successful.

1. Be committed.

In verse 16 we are told that the committed servants WENT. They did not make excuses. They went out from where they were. We will never be able to become anything more when we stay home and fail to step out with the investments that God has given us.

We should find places where we can hone our abilities and maximize our gifts. We should make them better. This is preparation. We should be somewhere where those with the same gifts are being used well and learn everything we can so we can multiply our own gifts and talents. But it begins by GOING. We have to step out on faith.

2. Be Connected.

Once we have honed our abilities and gifts, we should find the place where we can use them and be connected there. In the story, the servants traded with others. They began to use their talents to complete their mission. This is what we must do as well. When our gifts are connected in the right place, God will bless what we do. Notice in v. 18 that the one with one talent was

neither committed nor connected. He simply hid the money and did nothing with it. He then went about his daily routine, ignoring the fact that he was given an investment, that he was a servant, and that his master would return to demand a return on his investment.

3. Be faithful.

In verse 19 we are told that the master was gone for a long time before he returned. Likewise, it may be a long time before we stand before the Lord to give an account, but we must be faithful with the time we've been given as well as the talents. Time is a limited commodity we can never get back, and we are told to redeem the time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16).

We have to be faithful in what is least if we expect to get much (Lk. 16:10). This means every day we should be doing something to demonstrate faithfulness to what we've been given, our time, our talents, and our mission.

In v. 21 and 23 the faithful servants were blessed to enter their master's happiness. The unfaithful servant was cast into outer darkness (v. 30). We can now see that becoming something more is not simply a choice, it's a mandate, and we are all stewards of what we've been given. Therefore, it's all the more necessary for us to be committed, to be connected, and to be faithful with our time, our talents, and our mission.