

The Talents - How to Be More Effective

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ ²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ ²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:14-30)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. What a joy to write to you about the grace that is revealed to us through believing in the name of the One whom God sent to us, the Lord Jesus Christ, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Such grace that we received in faith in Christ Jesus, had transformed our lives and brought us to the abundant life that He promised to everyone who believed and put his hope in Him, to Jesus the faithful One. As the word of God testifies, “*Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.*”

Dear friends, the new life eternal that God has promised to those who follow and walk with His Son Jesus will not be as the life that we live before knowing Him. For after believing in Him, He grants us heavenly wisdom to manage our lives in a better and fruitful way.

The Lord Jesus Christ before He suffered on the cross, He spoke to His disciples about His coming back to judge the world. He spoke to them in a form of parable – the parable of Talents. (Matthew 25:14-30). The talents describe what God had entrusted to us, the blessings that He wanted us to use for His glory and for the benefit of the people whom God has placed around us. The talents can be:

- 1- **The available time that God gave us:** God’s desire for us is to use this time fruitfully.
- 2- **The skills that He gave us:** Like good voice and ability to sing, to play musical instruments, good scientific knowledge, the ability to learn and use technology, computer skills, etc.
- 3- **The material possessions that He gave us:** The Lord had blessed us with jobs, salaries, money and assets, capitals, lands, houses, buildings, and many other things that God gave us to be used for His glory and for the name of Jesus to be lifted up.
- 4- **The Spiritual gifts that He gave us:** These are gifts that God has given to those who believe and follow Jesus. He

gave them different gifts like , work of miracles, prophecy, healing the sick, encouragement, showing mercy, administration, teaching, etc. these gifts are used to serve people for the common good, and to bring praises and glory to God.

God has given to everyone of us portion of any of the above talents. Some had received much; others have little as the Bible says, ***“each according to his ability.”*** Jesus in the parable of the talents described the Master, who is Jesus Himself, who before He left had entrusted his servants certain talents. Then he went on a journey and then when he came back he settled accounts with them. The man who received five talents brought another five and the same to the one who received two he gained two more. ***“Then the man who had received the one talent came, ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talents in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.”*** (Matthew 25:24-25) Why such a man did not use what God had given him? What hindered him from being effective in doing God’s work and to bring fruit to God the Father? As we analyze what the Master has said to him we will know what made that servant and might make us ineffective in using the talent that God has given: ***“His master replied, ‘You wicked , lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered see? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.”*** (Matthew 25:26-27)

1- ***Laziness:*** To delay, to postpone, to sleep more, and to lay in bed more will kill the time that God gave us: ***“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest – and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.”***(Proverbs 24:33-34) God wants us to be diligent in our lives. We need to spend more time in prayer, more time in reading the word of God, the Bible and to mediate on it. Many they have lost lot of what God had given them because of laziness and lack of diligent follow

up to what they already have or what God had entrusted to them.

2- ***Wickedness:*** Living a sinful life makes us unfruitful person. Craftiness and depending on shrewd ways or corruption will make us ineffective. Whatever success we may have at the beginning of our crooked ways and practice, finally we will be exposed and any evil method we did we will receive its consequences. ***“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and lay bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*** (Hebrew 4:13)

3- ***Lack of knowledge:*** The lazy wicked servant when he came to give an account he said to his Master, ***“I knew that you are”***, but in reality he doesn’t know his Master well. Many times we think we know God and we know His ways, but in fact we don’t know Him well and that makes us ineffective servants. God said, ***“My people perish because they lack knowledge.”*** (Hosea 4:6) So, how are we going to avoid having lack of knowledge about our God? By reading the Bible regularly. Let us daily read God’s word, mediate on it and apply it in our lives. This is the way to know the will of God our Master and Lord.

My dear and beloved: What we have read is a good reminder for us to check ourselves. We love and we want to hear from Jesus when He comes again, ***“Well done, good and faithful servant, come and share your master’s happiness.”*** But we need to humble ourselves before God, to watch ourselves and accept correction from Him as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: ***“Father God, thank You for the gift of eternal life that I receive when Jesus died on the cross for me. Lord, take away my laziness. Search me and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts and cleanse me from any offensive way. Give me diligence to know You more, to read your word and to serve You until You take me with You to heaven. Thank You, Lord, for your faithfulness. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”***