

Well Done

Matthew 25:14-21

This week's Truth to be Shared: The Lord will hold us accountable for how we've served Him by serving others, and He will greatly reward those who have been faithful servants.

There are certain resources which God has given to each and everyone one of us. In order for us to fulfill God's best plan for our lives it will require that we utilize them in a God-Honoring and Kingdom-Building way.

On the day of Judgment God is going to hold us accountable for how well we used our resources to advance His purposes in the world. This is the biblical principle of stewardship.

Stewardship is defined as : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially* : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

We are all God's stewards who will be held responsible for how well we have managed and supervised the time, talents, testimonies and treasures which He has entrusted to our care.

We want everyone to understand that God will celebrate those who manage their lives well and will bless them even further for their faithfulness in this endeavor. He will Celebrate with us in honor for the great work that we have done for the sake of God's eternal Kingdom.

Be a faithful servant by being fruitful and responsible with what has been entrusted to your care. God takes this very seriously and will reward each in accordance with the level of reliability and consistency he or she has shown during this "testing" period.

Luke 16:10...*"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."*

1. INTRODUCTION: What would be the first thing you would do if there were no limits to the money, skills or time which you possess?

Allow 5-7 minutes for this question

We want people to think about their lives if there were no limits. Unlimited Money, Unlimited Talent, and Unlimited Time. This is like a lottery question. What would you do if you won the lottery? Everyone has dreams about what they would do if there were no limits. We want them to vocalize them during this portion of the agenda. What do they daydream about? What would their life look like if there were no limits?

2. OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 25:14-21. According to the passage, What is this story illustrating? What roles do you think each of these people play? Who is the man going on the trip, who are the servants, what does the gold represent?

Spend about 5-7 minutes for this question

God makes it pretty clear in this passage that the story illustrates the Kingdom of Heaven. The man going on the trip represents Jesus being resurrected from the grave. He plans on returning at the Second Coming of Christ. The servants represent believers in the Kingdom of God each given a measure in which to manage. The gold represents the gifts that we are given which include our time, skills, experiences and history (testimony), and money.

3. Understanding: What are some ways that you could use your time to advance the Kingdom of God? Who are some people who you could share your story with that would benefit from hearing it?

Spend about 10 minutes on these questions

We want people in the group to take time identifying places and ways they could use their time and testimony to make a difference in the Kingdom of God. God has led us through certain experiences so that we can use our stories of hope and transformation to minister to other people. Maybe you made it through a teenage pregnancy, or drug addiction, or unsatisfying success in the world. Who could benefit from hearing this story and how could you share it with other people?

3. Understanding: Why do you think God uses ‘gold’ as the description for the resources he gives us? Do you agree with the idea that you can determine what is important to someone by looking at where they spend their money? Why or Why Not?

Jesus taught on the proper use of money and possessions quite frequently. He seemed to believe that it was a marker regarding what is truly important in your life. We want people to look at how they are stewards of their money as a marker pointing to what is really important to them. If we spend all our money on our pleasure or on ourselves then it is a pretty clear indicator that we are self-centered and self-focused. Being a giver to others is an important part of being a servant to others and esteeming them more highly than ourselves.

4. Application: What is a service project you can do as a group on a consistent and ongoing basis in order to be a good steward of your God-given resources and live out the value of “Serving Like Crazy”?

Spend about 10 minutes on these questions

We want you to develop a group strategy to serve the community on an ongoing basis. We don't want this emphasis to end now, but we want it to launch you to a new method of Group Life. We want you to be servants of the Living God and stewards of the resources he gives. Ask everyone to commit to your new plan and then turn this into your prayer time.

PRAY: Pray that God give you the perseverance and faithfulness to fulfill the calling of Jesus to be a servant of others. Thank him for the opportunities and ask him to open your eyes to see the world as he sees it. If Jesus was a servant, then we should be a servant. Let us walk how he walked and live how he lived.

PROMOTE: Use this time to promote our upcoming Easter Weekend Worship Services.

Metairie: Wednesday 7pm, Friday 7pm & Celebrate Recovery at 7pm, Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am & 10:45am

St. Bernard: Friday 7pm & Celebrate Recovery at 7pm, Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9am & 10:45am

River Parishes: Friday 7pm & Celebrate Recovery at 7pm, Sunday 9am & 10:45am

Westbank: Sunday 10am

Online: Friday 7pm, Sunday 10:45am & 7pm