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DO YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENT?

Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25 : 14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (ESV)

Pray

We have been talking about being a blessing to others. Last week, we talked about giving our treasures. We know what we have just read that the talents our Lord is talking about here pertains to the currency at that time but since this is a parable, we can interpret this as anything that God has given us.

INTRODUCTION :

An organist was trying to apply for a job in the church. So the pastor asked him, “What makes your talent different from other organists?” The organist replied, “My playing makes people give more to the church.” The pastor replied, “What? Perfect timing.” The roof of the church is leaking and we need around P20,000 to fix it. The organist replied, “Don’t worry pastor, just tell the church the amount you need and ask the people, “If any of you would like to pledge more than P500, please stand” and then I’ll do the rest.” The pastor said, “Really?” So at the end of his sermon, the pastor presented the need to the church and then asked the people,

“those who would like to pledge more than P500, please stand.” And then the pastor looked at the organist and the organist played “Bayang Magiliw”. Organist was hired.

We usually say to people, “Uy may hidden talent ka pala” We joke about it and say, “Keep it hidden”. But seriously speaking, it’s not wise to keep our talents to ourselves.

Background IN MATTHEW 24

- **The context of the parable is about Jesus coming back again**

Matthew 24 : 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

What the Lord is teaching us today, that those who are really saved and those who really love Him do two things :

- **They expect that Jesus will come back soon.** (Matthew 25:1-13)
(That’s why Jesus told about the Parable of the Bridesmaid before the Parable of the talents)
- **They exercise their talents for the Kingdom of God.** (Matthew 25:14-30)

Those who are not saved, they only use their talents for themselves.

Matthew 24: 48-51 “But if that person only looks out for himself, and the minute the Master is away does what he pleases—abusing the help and throwing drunken parties for his friends—the Master is going to show up when he least expects it and make hash of him. He’ll end up in the dump with the hypocrites, out in the cold shivering, teeth chattering.” (The Message Paraphrase)

Now, I’m not saying that we all enter the ministry but what the Lord is saying is that whatever talents and gifts God has given us, we must use it to bless others so somehow they will know Christ.

I. OUR LORD ENTRUSTED US WITH HIS TALENTS

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

Etymology : “paradidomi” entrusted, delivered, to take care to manage

PRINCIPLE : We are God’s managers and God is the owner.

We talked about last week when it comes to the principle of giving and blessing others we have to remember :

*Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*

Do you know that the first job God gave Adam?

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

The meaning of the word “servant” is doulos and it’s not the type of servant that just waits for instructions. In Biblical times, there are servants who takes care of his funds, there are servants who takes care of his properties and etc.

Everything that we have (our time, talent and treasures) belong to God. **Our job is to make sure that we use it to be a blessing. Why? It’s because that’s how others will see that God is with us.**

Biblical Illustration : Remember Joseph and Potiphar? He was a “slave” of Potiphar but Potiphar made him manage all the properties of Potiphar and it prospered under his care.

Genesis 39: 2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.

Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

You see, when the Lord is with you and you are managing what God has entrusted you, you become a blessing to wherever you are.

NOTE : Good to note that we have a term, “God-given talents” and we only attach it to exceptional gifts. We must remember, everything we have is God-given and we must also change the phrase from “God-given” to “God-entrusted talent”

Ice breaker : Remember you are managers of God’s talents. So when people ask you what you do for a living, you can also say to them, “I’m a talent manager.”

- **God has given each one of us talents according to our ability.**

15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Let me give you a background of what a this word talent means in the Bible :

- **A talent is a unit of measurement to weigh gold or silver.**

e.g. We can call it today, a kilo or a ton... (1 kilo of gold please)

- **A talent of gold is equivalent to around \$1M***

**According to Tyndale Bible Dictionary (under Coins), treasure plundered from the temple by the Romans in AD 66 is recorded as amounting to 17 talents. In gold talents, that sum would represent the equivalent of the purchase price of about 15 large homes in a modern Western city.*

So it means, the master gave around \$5M, \$2M and \$1M to the respective servants.

Application : It means whatever God has given you, it's not cheap. It has great value. But it is given according to the ability He has given us.

Illustration : My talent is teaching but that is not Kuya Met's talent. His talent is he knows how to fix cars. But God expects both of us to use it to bless others and use it for His kingdom. That's why by God's grace, I teach the Bible. Kuya Met uses his talents as a mechanic to fix the vehicles of pastors for free and help our church members.

Whatever God has given you, use it to bless others and for His kingdom.

Your talent is cooking. That has great value (mahalaga yan). Use it to bless others.

Your talent is listening well to others. That has great value. Use it to bless others.

Your talent is singing. That has great value. Use it to bless others.

Your talent is coordinating and leading. That has great value. Use it to bless others.

In short, whatever talent God has given you. It has value and precious in the Lord's eyes.

Some people will say, "Pastor, ang talent ko lang (I hate that word "lang") ay magaling akong makipagkaibigan. Madaling mahulog ang loob nila sa akin" That's a talent! Then use it to invite people to church.

II. OUR LORD'S EXPECTATION WITH OUR TALENTS

16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Etymology : reckon "settled accounts" in the original language is a business term

Investors nowadays, expect what you call ROI and of course that he would make money of his investments.

- **God expects us to use what he has given us to be a blessing to others and His kingdom**

So who are these people that God is referring to?

Remember THE CONTEXT is in Matthew 24.

- **The one who received five talents and two talents and gave back five and two talents became a blessing to others for His Kingdom.**

Matthew 24 : 45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions

- **The one who *went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money* is the person who only lived for himself.**

Biblical history : "dug in the ground" is like their safe during that time. So this is the person who just kept it for himself.

REMEMBER WHAT WE READ EARLIER AGAIN AS THE CONTEXT.

Matthew 24 : 48-51 “But if that person only looks out for himself, and the minute the Master is away does what he pleases —abusing the help and throwing drunken parties for his friends—the Master is going to show up when he least expects it and make hash of him. He’ll end up in the dump with the hypocrites, out in the cold shivering, teeth chattering.” (The Message Paraphrase)

The reason why we know that the person who just dug in the ground is the same person who only looked out for himself is because they suffered the same fate.

Matthew 25: 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (ESV)

Illustration : I remember a movie in the Philippines, Darna at ang Higante and Ike Lozada played a mentally challenged person. Someone gave him a brand-new tsinelas but he doesn’t want to wear it because he doesn’t want it to get dirty.

Just like other people, they don’t want to serve because they will say, “Istorbo e” or “Mapapagod ako e”. Or “Sayang ang oras ko” Or “sayang lang ang pagod ko e”

Remember as a Christian, we no longer live for ourselves...WHO DO WE LIVE FOR?

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Now what happens if we don’t use the gifts/talents God has given us to be a blessing to others and to His Kingdom?

29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

- **God expects excellence in the use of the talents He gave us.**

16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more

See this : It did not say, he received five talents and he made 3 talents. Or he received 2 talents and made 1 talent. The one who has five talents and two talents worked “traded” and made five talents and two talents.

So how do we apply it?

If you are serving, do it excellently, do it with a smile, cheerfully. Greet people when they come in as if you haven’t seen them for a long time.

Or if you are helping others, do it excellently. Give your best.

2 Corinthians 8: 1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Illustration : One pastor was telling me this story about the time he was a guest preacher at a church in a very remote area in the province. It's a small church in a rural area. When giving time came, he noticed that there was this old man who was barefooted who was crying pulling a sack of sweet potatoes to give to the offering. The pastor asked the pastor of that place and he told him that the old man had to walk about an hour just to go to church and has to pass through muddy ricefields and when he will have some harvest, he will make sure he will bring it to church and those were tears of joy that he will be able to give to the Lord.

Now, why can I say that God expects excellence in our blessing of others.

III. OUR LORD'S ENTHUSIASM WITH THE USE OF OUR TALENTS

- **God lavishes the good manager with praise.**

20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your master.'

"Well done" ...also means "excellent"! It described the quality of work of the servant. We cannot say "well done" to someone who you know did the work half-heartedly. In short, our Lord is saying to the servant, "Wow, you made sure you gave your best so that you will produce excellent work."

And then of course, he gives a description of the servant *"good and faithful"*. He describes what kind of servant the person is. Wow!

Illustration : One time, I did something that the head of our company replied this through email while he was on his way to the U.K.

"Thanks Jerry, you are our model citizen and I would love to have everyone take the same time and attention you do. Keep up the good the work."

Guess how I felt? It made me glad. And that's only my boss.

What if you suddenly get a text message or an email from our Lord Jesus saying :

"Thanks Vicky, you are a model Christian and I would love to have every Christian take the same time and attention you do. Keep up the good work."

Signed : Jesus

WOW!

Plus the fact that the Lord said, *Enter into the joy of your master.*

Imagine this? When you are using what God has given you to be a blessing to others, **you are giving joy to the heart of God. Wow!** Remember, our lesson about pleasing God? We please not in order for Him to be pleased with us because He is already pleased with us because of Jesus Christ. We please Him because He is already pleased with us and it gives us pleasure to please Him.

You want to be motivated to be a blessing to others and His church, just think that God is so fully of joy that you are giving your best when we are serving others through our time, talent and treasure. We are using what He has given us for HIS KINGDOM.

Now, here's another motivation for us to be excellent in serving others in being a blessing to others and to His church.

- **God lavishes us with more blessings.**

21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much

Some people say, "Lord i-bless mo lang ako, I will bless others". Or Lord, "palakihin mo lang suweldo ko and I will be a blessing". Or "pag nagka-time ako..." God knows our heart.

Or when people say to me, "Pastor, kapag yumaman ako, magbibigay ako sa Panginoon," I take it with a grain of salt.

You need to get the principle of blessing :

You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much

If God can trust you with what you have right now, He will entrust you with more!

Again also remember the one who just kept the blessing to himself. What happened? It was taken away.

And you have to remember, the blessings is not only going to be here. The context is when the Lord returns. It means the eternal blessings will be much greater.

28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.

Etymology : abundance “perisseuo” overflowing!!!

Isn't that what the Lord said in 2 Corinthians 9:6

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

If you become a blessing to others and to His church, God will bless you more so you can bless others more!!!

SUMMONS : John Huffman observes, "God smiles when we use our abilities. You saw the movie Chariots of Fire.

Remember the Scot Olympic runner, Eric Liddell, he was a Scottish missionary but also an Olympian, who declared, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast, and when I run I feel God's pleasure." He went on to say, "To give up running would be to hold Him in contempt."

- **Use your blessings.**
- **Use it excellently.**
- **Use it for God's glory.**

S.G.D.