

“Stories ~ The Loaned Money” [9.20.09]



The story is told about 3 sons who left home to make their mark upon the world & succeeded. Each son was able to give back a special gift to their aging mother. The 1st son built a beautiful new home for his mother. The 2nd son bought new Cadillac w/a chauffeur to drive his aging mother. The 3rd son was also thoughtful. He remembered how his mother enjoyed reading the Bible & knew eye sight was poor; so he sent her a remarkable parrot that recite the entire Bible. It took the elders in the church 12 yrs to teach him. She could name the chapter & verse & the parrot would say it. Some time later; their mother sent 3 short notes of appreciation:

1. Milton, she wrote, “the house you built is so large; I only live in 1 room; but I still have to clean the whole house.”
2. Gerald, she wrote, “I am too old to travel. I stay @ home most of the time, so I rarely use the Cadillac, and that driver you sent is so rude! He’s a pain!”
3. “But Donald,” she wrote, “the little chicken you sent, was delicious!” 😊

Today’s parable is basically straight-forward; it reminds us that God has given each of us gifts that He intends for us to use to help others.

I. The parable of ‘The Loaned Money’

A. (R) Matthew 25: 14 – 15 or p. 756 of pew Bible

1. Today’s parable is not politically correct.
  - a. If we were telling this story today, we would not divide up the money unequally.
  - b. If we had \$8k to share with 3 people, we’d give \$3k to the 1<sup>st</sup>, \$3k to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, & then borrow \$1,000 from the government, so we could give \$3k to the 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to demonstrate that all men are created equal = equal opportunity for all.
2. BUT Jesus communicated the truth = while all men & women are equally valuable-important to God, we are NOT created equally.
  - a. We were NOT born with the same innate gifts; size, temperaments, & I.Q.’s vary from person to person.
  - b. If you think all people are created equal just look @ Jeff Saturday (Colts) & then look @ ME = a little different. Or notice the slight differences between Roseanne Barr & Cindy Crawford - obviously not made the same.
  - c. Each of us are uniquely made with different gifts, abilities, opportunities.
3. 1 of the realities of the parable simply explains that God gives people different gifts - 1 servant received 5 bags of silver, 1 servant received 2 bags of silver & 1 servant received 1 bag of silver.

One of the my take-away’s this week is: It is not your talent-gift which matters, what matters is HOW YOU USE IT !

It’s obvious that individuals possess various talents that are not equal in value; what’s important is that we can have equal effort in using our gifts for God!

[Back to the story]

B. (R) Matthew 25: 16 – 18

1. IF we were telling this story today, we would probably have a different hero-protagonist.
  - a. Many of us enjoy pulling for the underdog; we root for David vs. Goliath; root for the small business owner over the mega corporations, & cheer for the Chicago Cubs against anybody ☺
  - b. If we had told the story, we'd probably have the 1 talent man make a tremendous comeback, & point out that the 'little guy can make it big'; you can 'rise to the top no matter where you start'.
2. BUT Jesus had the 1 talent man FAIL in order to demonstrate that no matter how meager our gift, God requires that we develop & use it to benefit others & His Kingdom!
  - We are not to be intimidated by others more gifted, we're not to suppress our talents-gifts because we can't perform as well as someone else.
  - If I would have done this, I would have never preached my 1<sup>st</sup> sermon. There are much more gifted & talented communicators than me - their gifting was far-superior!

C. (R) Matthew 25: 19 – 23

- 1<sup>st</sup> 2 servants took their master's money ~ NOT their own personal money; & doubled his investment = hard work & risk paid off.

D. (R) Matthew 25: 24 – 27

- Can you imagine one of our modern newspapers getting word of this story? Headlines would read: "Judgmental land-owner superimposes his self-righteous values upon employee"
- Truth is Jesus makes it real clear that God holds people accountable for their behavior - there is a divine standard by which He measures our performance.

Maybe you have heard the expression "IF you don't use your GIFTS you will lose your GIFTS"

Next verses are where it finds its origin

E. (R) Matthew 25: 28 – 30

- NOTICE the one who is punished is the 1 who will not try ☹
  - The servant with the 1 talent did not lose his talent, he simply did nothing with it!
  - Bible indicates, even if he had ventured an investment risk & lost it all, it would have been better than to do nothing at all.

Each of you was given a talent-gift that God intends for you to use! The Bible indicates: There is a God-expectation for us to open up & explore our gifts to benefit others.

II. 7 practical, life-giving Spiritual Gifts

A. (R) Romans 12: 6 – 8 or p. 866 in pew Bible

- Charisma is the original word used for gift; it is the same word used in I Peter 4: 10. I believe this is the same category of gifts were what Peter was referring to when he encouraged us to 'manage our gifts well' to benefit one another.
- Bible says you possess one of these gifts – you will be held accountable for it!
- Imagine how a parent would feel IF on Christmas Day when the gifts for their children were handed out, the children just took them, said "Thank you," and laid them aside with no attempt to open the gifts, not even find out what they were.
  - Imagine how God must feel when He has given gifts to us that He intends for us to use, & yet we never take time to find out what they are, never put them to work, & then excuse ourselves from serving the Lord & His church by saying = I have nothing to offer ☹
  - Today's parable tells us that is serious business. Rejection is allowed, but it is costly = a life or death decision.

B. MY FEAR for our church family - - is when you get to later life you will have REGRETS how you spent-wasted your life away.

- [INSERT story of Deon Sanders ~ growing up in Ft Meyers, FL

I have NO IDEA today which servant my life & ministry would represent:

Did I get 5 talents or 2 talents or 1 talent?

That is not the Question. The Question is = How did I use it? DID I EVEN TRY?

Let's review Romans 12: 6 – 8 = YOU have 1 of these 7 GIFTS:

Today's story indicates = YOU will be accountable to GOD for how you use it!

1. 1<sup>st</sup> GIFT listed is prophesying = receiving a word from God thru scriptures & boldly sharing it!
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> GIFT listed is serving = 1 of WRCC most evident gifts  
Did you realize that in nearly everything God does He uses people? The reason spiritual gifts are important is because our communities need what spiritually-empowered people have to offer!
  - If God wants a hungry child fed – He motivates a spiritually gifted person w/compassion to provide a meal.
  - If God wants a pregnant teenage girl to be saved from the horror of abortion & the awful consequences that accompany it – He uses people who are spiritually – gifted in mercy to come alongside & help her thru the rough time.
  - If God want to provide homes for the homeless He rarely speaks "Let there be homes" into the atmosphere. Rather, God puts it in the ♥'s of spiritually – gifted people in helps to start a Habitat for Humanity; Muscles move & sweat pours ☺
  - PRACTICAL beautiful garden @ rear entry = Jim Riemann + Brian Spears
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> GIFT listed is teaching = opening up God's word; Betty Raper (2<sup>nd</sup>) Gail McConkey & Marion Hale (Jr. High) + Billy Herman Derek (Sr. High)
4. 4<sup>th</sup> GIFT listed is encouraging = breathing words of life!

- Don't under-estimate how valuable this gift can be = Silent Partners that love & breathe life; words of courage = God's blessing ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> mother, older brothers; wow!
5. 5<sup>th</sup> GIFT listed is giving = gift of generosity!
- Some of you have been given the gift of giving - - it warms your heart!
    - [INSERT] Ron Blue's story from Generous Living;
    - Comedian George Carlin's assessment = ☺
- "Trying to be happy by accumulating possessions is like trying to satisfy hunger by taping sandwiches all over your body."
- (R) I John 3: 14 – 18 or p. 942 in pew Bible
  - Without this gift ~ the love of God in Central Indiana and throughout the world would be desperately lacking; couldn't do it w/out you!
    - Eternal investments = Jauncito + 55 pastors; 600 baptisms
6. 6<sup>th</sup> GIFT listed is leadership = using your god given influence to lead & love others to Jesus!
- This gift is not limited to adults. I'm seeing evidence of it in my 4<sup>th</sup> grader – student ministries – to civic leaders; desperately needed!
7. 7<sup>th</sup> GIFT listed is showing kindness = powerful gift!
- 1000 COATS for under-privileged children
  - IF I can't do anything else - - I can @ least show kindness
  - Evidences of this gift @ WRCC = Art & Carolyn Atwell + Joyce & Terry Herron + silent acts of kindness that only God knows pantry shelves filled