

FREEDOM ENTAILS RESPONSIBILITY

References:

Matthew 25:14-30

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Bible Verse:

"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(Matthew 25:30)

Lesson:

Freedom Entails Responsibility

Because Adam was created free, he was responsible to keep God's command.

(Gen. 2:15-17)

And so it is with us; the more freedom we have, the greater are the responsibilities entrusted to us; the more talents we possess, the more is expected of us. In the parable of the five talents, (Matthew 25:14-30), the Lord Jesus explained this idea of responsibility.

The parable points out the necessity of working for the glory of God and the good of others. What we have is not ours; we cannot call it our own, since it was given to us by God. "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

In the parable, the master "called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one". Each talent was worth about \$1000. The master was not showing favoritism in the distribution of these talents. He was simply giving "to each according to his ability", as the parable says. If he had given more talents to the other two servants, they would have been greatly burdened with them. The Lord will not give us more than we can bear.

WORK IS ESSENTIAL

God created Adam in order to work. If any one will not work, let him not eat. Work leads to fruitfulness and happiness. "A man reaps what he sows, if we serve others and give freely to the extension of God's kingdom, we reap eternal joy.

1. THE FAITHFUL

Two of the servants acted wisely:

- They were faithful and worked hard.
- They used their talents and their potentialities.

Let us apply this to our own practical life. Why is it important to be faithful in our studies? in sports? in the employment of our free time? in worship? in the service of our family, our Church, and the others?

The Reward

* They were highly praised "Well done, good and faithful servant".

* They were given more authority, and therefore greater responsibilities; "I will set you over much".

* They had lasting joy, "Enter into the joy of your master". They were accepted, their work was accepted, and they were amply rewarded.

2. *THE LAZY SERVANT*

Why do you disapprove of his course of action?

+ Because he was lazy.

+ Because he despised his one talent.

+ Because he was afraid of the risks of commerce.

Let us think of ourselves. What are the dangers of laziness in worship, in study and in service? Why should we not despise our small and few talents? How should we use God's gifts: our time, health, learning, intelligence?

THE SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS

At the settling of accounts, the lazy servant came forward:

* He began to make excuses.

* He could see nothing wrong in his action; "Here you have what is yours".

* He took the whole matter lightly; "I went and hid your talent in the ground".

* He criticized his master; "I knew you to be a hard man".

* He showed the spirit of a slave who is motivated by fear, "I was afraid ..." Nothing insults God and prevents us from doing our duty to Him more than slavish fear.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out our fear (1 John 4:18).

The Master accused him of two things:

1. "Wicked and slothful servant"

Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4: 17).

2. Self Contradiction:

"You knew that I reap when, I have not sowed. 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" (Ver. 26, 27).

On the day of judgement, lazy people will be without any excuse.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE LAZY SERVANT

+ He was deprived of his talent; "Take the talent from him ... To every one who has, will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away" (Ver. 23, 29).

+ He was cast into the outer darkness "Where men weep and gnash their teeth" (ver. 30). Laziness is indeed a dangerous spiritual sickness.

Conclusion:

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- 2.
- 3.