

From Egypt to Canaan, Part 3 - Saved to Serve

1. Christian experience - review

- A. Choose God
 - 1) Forsake all else
 - 2) Crucify self
- B. Learn God's ways
 - 1) Filled with Holy Spirit always
 - 2) Trained to submit to God
- C. Grafting
 - 1) Detach from old vine
 - 2) Attach to new vine
 - 3) Connection must grow strong
 - 4) Then, start sprouting something

2. Burning bush

- A. **Exodus 3:9-10** – Moses called to bear fruit
- B. **John 15:8** – Father glorified, you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples
 - 1) Everyone is called to bear fruit for God's glory

3. **Rom 12:4-6**

- A. one body in Christ
 - 1) we are all part of Christ's body
- B. members of one another
 - 1) smash a finger -> whole body reacts
- C. all the members do not have the same function
 - 1) organs have different jobs
- D. gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us
 - 1) **1Cor 12:11** – one Spirit, distributing to each one as He wills.
- E. let us use them

4. Parable of the talents – Matthew 25 – Mentone

- A. **Matthew 25:14** – his own servants
 - 1) Talking about professed followers of Christ - us
- B. **Matthew 25:15** – each according to his own ability
 - 1) We get what we can handle
 - 2) Talents refer especially to Spiritual Gifts. {COL 327.1}
 - 3) We don't get the same gifts, but each person gets at least one. {1Cor. 12:8-11, COL 327.1}
 - 4) Includes all gifts and talents, original and acquired, natural and spiritual {COL 328.2}
- C. **Matthew 25:16-18** – each servant did what he wanted to do with the talents
 - 1) We are allowed to reveal our characters by the use we make of God's providences
- D. **Matthew 25:19**
 - 1) We will settle our accounts when our Lord returns
- E. **Matthew 25:20-21** – 5 talents improved -> commended
 - 1) Did well with a few -> will be given more
 - 2) As we use gifts and talents, we get more. {COL 353.1}
- F. **Matthew 25:22-23** – 2 talents improved -> commended
 - 1) Shortcomings
 - a) Made less than half of 1st servant

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- b) Falling behind – started 3 less, ended 6 less
- 2) Commendation was identical
- 3) Different expectations

- a) We are not judged by what another can do
- b) We are judged by what we do with our abilities

G. **Matthew 25:24-26** – bury 1 talent -> “wicked and lazy servant”

- 1) Only 3 less than 2nd servant – not judged by another’s work
- 2) Judged by his own lack of work -> condemnation
- 3) **Matthew 25:28**

- a) The talent that he refused to use was taken, given to faithful servant

H. What makes the Lord happy?

- 1) Use every talent given -> God is happy
- 2) Bury 1 talent -> God is not happy
- 3) What if you have 100 talents, bury 1, use 99? God is not happy.
- 4) Complete consecration is the key.

5. Mentone church as the body (Colossians 1:18, 24)

A. 80-20 rule – 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people

- 1) What happens to body parts that are not used?

B. Has Mentone been a blessing to you?

- 1) Eat w/o exercise -> bad

C. Increasing activities

- 1) Improved music
- 2) Expanding Sabbath School

D. **Ephesians 4:16** – joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, every part does its share -> growth, edifying

E. Doubts

- 1) What if I don’t have any extraordinary talents? Use what you have. (Luke 16:10)
- 2) What if there are others much more talented? It doesn’t matter.

6. Privileged to be co-laborers with God – Moses

A. Humility

- 1) He saw the magnitude of the work
- 2) He saw his weakness
- 3) Did that excuse him from doing the work assigned to him?
- 4) “Real humility fulfills God’s purposes by depending upon His strength.” {COL 363.3}

B. Faith to obey

- 1) Moses became eloquent
- 2) Whatever God commands us to do, He empowers us to do. {COL 333.1}

7. Let God use us as His instruments