

Sense and Responsibility

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Scriptural Text: Matthew 25:14-30, ESV

It is on the basis of God's faithfulness that He calls us to be faithful. That is the theme of the parable we will be studying. This is the last parable we will be teaching from in this series. This parable is also found within the context of the Olivet Discourse, the sermon which Jesus gave regarding His Second Coming and the glory that would follow. Earlier we considered the first parable in Matthew 25, the parable of the ten virgins, and the need for us to be ready through a personal relationship with God. In this parable we are taught to be faithful while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord.

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And 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.’ ²¹His 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.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His 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.’ ²⁴He 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, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

When God grants spiritual life to a man or a woman, He gives a serving purpose along with the life He gives. When God invites us into His Kingdom, He designs a Kingdom for us that possesses work which needs to be accomplished by us. We find it a great joy to serve the Savior who purchased us with His very blood and who died in our place.

No one can effectively serve God until they have, first, been born again through faith in Jesus. But, once we have been redeemed from our sin and given the life of God inside of our soul God's grace, then, compels us into His service. We are loyal subjects to this Wonderful King and we have been given the opportunity to invest in an Eternal Kingdom which will reap for us joy upon joy.

I love the way the Apostle Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 2,

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God... ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

This truth thrills me every time I meditate upon it. It tells us that in eternity past God considered this precise point in creation history and He thought specifically of each of us, personally, by name and as He thought of us very specifically, He carved out a specific work for us to accomplish with the life He has given to us. This is a work which will bring Him glory and bring us joy for all of eternity. As He carves out this work for us to accomplish, Jesus calls us to be faithful to accomplish that work. That is an amazing idea and amazing truth, one which grabs hold of our hear

and mind everyday we wake up, “What is the work You have for me to accomplish today for Your Kingdom and for Your glory, all mighty God and precious Savior?”

With these truths in view, we must ask our self, “Am I walking in the good work my King has prepared for me in advance to do? Am I living them out? Do I know what my part of the Kingdom is? Am I doing my part?” These are convicting questions but they are important ones. If we do not ask these questions we are wasting our life on transient tasks and menial things which carry no eternal weight. If we are not active in the work God has set aside for us in eternity past, then we squander the miraculous opportunity of being a part of God’s very Kingdom work, of having eternal purpose.

My aim in this study is not to create guilt and I recognize a parable like this can do just that. It may create some conviction and that is okay if the Holy Spirit brings it. It is a very good work God gives to us. My desire is we will be motivated to connect to the very work God has carved out for us specifically and purposefully so that God will be glorified. He deserves to be glorified. He sent His Son to die for us. And, it is also that we will find real joy because it is in this work we find meaning and hope and joy.

Jesus has been instructing His disciples concerning The Second Coming in Matthew 24 and 25. In Matthew 24, Jesus says,

³⁰ *“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

As Jesus teaches the truth and the certainty of His Second Coming, He teaches His disciples to live “in view” of this certain promise. Jesus continues,

⁴² *“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming...”* ⁴⁴ *“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

In Matthew 25 we find two parables regarding how a believer is to get ready and prepare for The Second Coming of the Lord. Both of these parables teach us to be ready and to live in constant view of The Second Coming of Jesus. The first parable emphasizes our need to inwardly get ready by making sure we have a real, authentic relationship with the King.

The oil the five virgins lacked and the other five virgins possessed represents God grace and His Holy Spirit. In view of Jesus’ Second Coming, are we ready? If the Lord were to return today, do we have the grace of God in our life so that we have all of our sins forgiven so that we are accepted and adopted into God’s family. That is the message of the first parable.

The second parable emphasizes our need to get ready outwardly; to begin to be about the work God has given us to accomplish as we wait for His return. The parable of the talents is a great encouragement for us to engage in this work. James teaches us,

^{2:26b} ...faith apart from works is dead.

If we have no works, if we are not faithful, then we are this wicked and slothful servant in this parable who Jesus ultimately assigns to the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Jesus, in this parable, sets before us as members of God’s Kingdom **four incentives to live the life of a faithful servant. The first incentive is that every believer is given opportunity and ability to serve God.** This is remarkable, especially given where we began, alienated from God, separated from Him, disconnected, enemies of God and yet God through Christ brings us into His Kingdom and grants everyone of us the opportunity and ability to serve God,

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

This is a parable which teaches us about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven. One of the aspects this parable teaches is that the Kingdom of Heaven, as it exists now, is a mixed crowd. Everyone who is in this Kingdom, as Jesus teaches

us through the parables, are people who verbally and externally proclaim to follow Jesus. That is how one gets into this Kingdom of God.

It is a mixed crowd because there are some whose verbal affirmation and verbal confession does not match their inward heart commitment. They are in the Kingdom of God now, but they do not have a part of the Kingdom of God and they will not reside in the Kingdom of God forever. Jesus gives to us three different sermons, one of which is outside the Kingdom while they are yet inside of the Kingdom as it exists now because right now the Kingdom of God is a mixed group of people. The end day, the day of accounting, reveals this and that is what this parable teaches, along with others.

^{15a} *“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.”*

What is interesting about this story is that we have this “master”. Who is the master in this story? It is Jesus. This Master is going to leave and go away and that is what Jesus did. He came, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died upon a cross, was buried, was raised again, appeared to the disciples, appeared to many of His followers, and then He ascended into Heaven. He goes away but He is going to return. When He goes away He entrusts a stewardship to those who He left behind. These are describes as “servants”.

These servants represent anyone who professes Jesus as King and professes Jesus as Lord. These are those who testify verbally that Jesus Christ them with His own blood, they are no longer their own, and they have been bought with a price. The Apostle Paul describes it this way in 1 Corinthians 6,

²⁰ for you were bought with a price.

We are no longer our own and we do not have the right to determine what we are going to do with our own life. We are a servant and the term “servant” simply means “slave”. What does a slave do? Their whole goal is to do the will of the master and that is what happens to us when we are born again and we receive God’s life.

We do not ask the question: What is the purpose for my life,” as though we are creating a purpose and deciding what we are going to do. No, we look toward and Lord and ask, “What is the purpose of my life? I need that answer from You and not from inside myself or outside in my surrounding. We need that answer from Jesus to tell us, because our life has been bought with a price, we are a slave, and our whole life is wrapped up in doing His will.

The talent described in this parable is not necessarily a skill, that a person is very talented at some skill or ability. This word as used in this story references a measure of weight regarding silver or gold. It is analogous to our pound or ounce. We are not told if the servant receives of gold or silver or any specific precious metal, but the picture is of the master weighing out some coins and as he weighs them out he give to one ten talents of silver, to another five talents of silver, and to another one talent of silver, each according to his ability. The master knows his servants and he knows their capabilities and he portions the weight of the coin according to their capacity. Each servant receives a very, very significant stewardship, whether it is five or two or one talent.

One talent of money is a very impressive amount of money. In that day, it is estimated by some Bible commentators, the average laborer would have work thirty-eight years in order to accumulate talent of silver. That is a lot of money. If we calculate that out, it could be anywhere between \$500,000.00 to \$800,000.00 in modern American currency. These talents represent a very significant and serious responsibility.

Imagine, if you went to work tomorrow morning, your employer wrote you a cashier’s check for \$800,000.00 in your name. He tells you it is yours and you are to take it, but he wants your to advance the company with it. It is yours to use and you have the freedom to decide how you will use it for the purpose of advancing the company. How would you feel about taking that check in your hand? How would you feel about putting that in your bank account? Would there not be some trepidation because it is a huge stewardship? But, you recognize there is some day when the company will come back and ask the question: What did you do with it, because they invested something incredibly significant with you.

Of course, that is God investing with us this talent. What does this talent represent? I believe it represents a number of things. Some say it references spiritual gifts and I believe that is a part of it, but I believe it is more than that. I believe

it is any resource we possess which God has given to us to use for His glory. It may be our physical energy, our physical abilities, our intellect, our relationships, our financial resources, our spiritual gifts, our opportunities, our knowledge, our experiences, our advantages. All of these are what these talents represent in this story. God gives to everyone in His Kingdom tremendous spiritual privilege, spiritual opportunity, and spiritual responsibility.

He does not give to all the same. To one He gives five, to one it is two, and to one it is one. And, we will not be judged upon the basis of magnitude, but we will be judged upon the basis of faithfulness and that is the point. To each one of us, God vests opportunities and abilities to glorify Him. The whole purpose God has of giving these gifts to His servants is that we would put them to use to advance His name. We will not hold onto them and stuff them in some hole in the ground and neglect them, but we would take them and be active with them and put them to use for the advance of His name.

How are we being faithful, as a servant of God, to use the resources He has given to us for His glory? If we are in Christ, we have been given, by God, tremendous opportunity and ability to serve Him.

The second incentive to live a life of faithful service is that every believer can be fruitful in the use of the “talents” God has entrusted to them,

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.”

I love the two little words, “at once”. This servant is not going to procrastinate. He is not going to say, “I am going to let that \$800,000.00 sit in my bank account and open the bank statement every couple of months because I like seeing that number.” No, he said to himself, “I do not know how long the master is going to be gone. I do not know how much time I have.” Is that not true for every one of us? Do you know how much time you have left to serve the Master, to use the incredible resource He has given? I do not know if I will have the next minute or the next hour or the next day. That is why he knew he had to make use of the time, “At once he went and put that resource to work.”

Some of us lack confidence about our ability to be fruitful when we use the resources God has entrusted to us. Some believe, “If I put my resources to use, and I do not have much resources, I am not very smart, I am not very gifted, I am not very talented, and I do not have many opportunities.” First of all, I believe that is a lie from the pit of Hell. I believe God has invested each of us with much more than we can imagine.

Secondly, it is God who produces the increase and God guarantees fruitfulness to every servant who faithfully stewards the resources God gives. Our fear of failure often freezes many people from becoming busy in the Kingdom work.

Notice in this story, only one person failed to yield a good return. It was the person who did nothing. Every other person in the story who simply did something had an awesome return. Why is that? God insures every one who invests the resources He provides in good faith will absolutely receive a good return. That is the promise of God.

I love how the Apostle Paul speaks of this in his first letter to the church in Corinth,

^{3:6} I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ^{9a} For we are God's fellow workers.

Paul uses farming terminology. Farmers do not know, and we have a number of farmers in our congregation, do not know what will happen at harvest time. All they know is they need to plant and do the work they need to do to and God is the One who gives the increase. That is what happens; it is the wonderful, pleasure of God to provide the fruitfulness of the labor of weak and yet willing servants. Whatever project God is working on, it is always successful and we are God's fellow workers working along side of Him and He along side of us. He is the who sovereignly ordains the outcome.

That is the reason why, in 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul, after talking about the resurrection of Christ and the victory of Christ, he said,

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

That is the promise of God. God insures the investment we make in our service to Him produces an eternally glorifying result. Our effectiveness is never dependant upon us. It is always dependant upon God who works in us and through us.

The great story of the Bible, if we read it cover to cover and I encourage all of us to do so, is a story of God working for His glory through empowering weak and ordinary people, sinful people and people who are often faithless. He employs a shepherd boy to defeat a giant.¹ He employs a little boy with five loaves and two fishes to feed five thousand.² He employs fishermen who know nothing except how to throw a net out and draw fish in to turn the world upside down.³ We are hear because these fishermen were faithful.

Imagine you are John in a fishing boat and you meet Jesus for the first time and He calls you. Can you imagine the possibilities of what is going to happen as a result of this simple guys life who is faithful to the Lord. I want you to know that is true of each of us. God takes the little things and uses them in incredible ways.

Sometimes Christians ask the question: Is it possible God would even use me? Absolutely, positively, “Yes!” He loves to take weak things to show and display His glory.

The third incentive to live a life of faithful service is: Every believer will experience a day of reckoning with God,

¹⁹ *“Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”*

It has been a long time since the Lord left and we have been waiting for His return. The length of time between the Lord’s departure and present day does not discourage us about the certainty. “One day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day.”⁴ The Lord does not count time like we do. For us it is a long time and for these servants it was a long time. Jesus promised it would be a long time.

To “settle accounts” is a commercial term. It means to open the accounting books and find out what happened with the money and what has taken place.

I had a pastor in high school at Grace Presbyterian Church by the name of Dr. Bruce Dunn. He made an incredible positive impact upon my life. He had a little statement he would often say, “There is payday coming!” I remember him saying that often. Friends, there is a payday coming! I want you to know that. It is absolutely certain a payday is coming. The question is what is going to happen on that payday and that is the issue of this story and of these three servants.

The master returns and he evaluates how his faithful servants have exercised the stewardship given to them and accounts are settled. There are two levels of accountability in this story which are important for us to consider. First, we will be held accountable for our response to the King’s Person, “How did you respond to My Son when I sent Him into this world to be your Savior?”

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.’”*

¹ 1 Samuel 17:20-50

² Matthew 14:15-21

³ Mark 1:16-18

⁴ 2 Peter 3:8

Here is a servant who loved his master and now he will get to be closer to his master. He will get to experience more of the joy of his relationship with his 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.’”

This reward God gives to faithful stewards holds no meaning to a person who does not love the Lord. Our reward is tied integrally to our relationship with the Lord. Heaven will hold no joy for the person who does not love God because Heaven is all about God. People wonder what Heaven will be like and some people have a boring view as to what Heaven will be like and it would be boring if one did not love the Lord. Heaven is all about the Lord and if we love the Lord there is no place more joyful, more wonderful, more exciting, and more thrilling to be than in Heaven because God is there. Is that not awesome!

The master tells his servants, “Enter into the joy of the master.” Here we have a master who is joy-inspiring, joy-producing when those who love him are around him. Joy wells up because he is such an awesome person, but notice, the third servant and his view of the 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.’”

This servant’s heart problem, the central problem, is he inwardly despised his master. Basically, this servant is telling the master he is dishonest, not fair, and not just. There are many people in the world who look at God and say, “God, you are not fair and You are not just.” This servant also had fear. He dishonored and disrespected his master in his heart first. Where there is no joy in the Lord there can be no service to the Lord for we will not serve a master whom we do not love.

This servant’s true heart is revealed on the day of reckoning and we did not see what kind of heart this servant had until the day of reckoning. When the three received the talents all of them seemed to have the same heart toward the master, but it was on the day of reckoning this was fully revealed. This person cannot conceal anymore his inner contempt for his master and he considered him unfair, harsh, and dishonest, but he was wrong. What a tragedy it is to be wrong about something so eternally significant. This unbelief regarding the nature of his master paralyzed him from fruitful service and it ultimately kept him from the Kingdom.

It is not what the first two did with their talents, but it is how they related to the master and the difference between these two different kinds of servants. One kind of servant said, “My master is awesome. The greatest reward I could possibly receive is more joy of entering into a closer relationship with the master.” The other kind of servant said, “I knew you to be a hard man.” What is your view of God. It is impossible to serve God faithfully unless we have a view of God who is wholly wonderful and in which you see God as a magnificent person who is eternal and sovereign and awesome and wholly wonderful. It is impossible for us to serve Him rightly, to be a good steward, until that issue is first resolved.

Our view of God impacts everything about our life. That is the reason the goal for the Christian is to ever build and grow in this lofty and high view of the Lord. I urge you to fight against the unbelief that sees God as someone unworthy to serve. Low ideas about God absolutely kill and slay our worship and service to him. A.W. Tozer writes, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us... Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God... The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him – and of her. In all her prayers and labors this should have first place.”⁵

I urge you to make this first place. Before you ask, “Lord, what do you want me to do to serve you as Lord, who are you in my heart? How do I understand You and hold You?” We will be held accountable for our response to the King’s person.

⁵ Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer.

Secondly, we will be held accountable for our response to the King's provision of stewardship. The master said to the first and second servant, "Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." The principle is we will be judged upon the basis of our faithfulness we have exercised in using the resources God has given to us. God does not hold us accountable for the magnificence of our gifts, but simply for the faithful use of them.

To the third servant he said, "You wicked and slothful servant." This is a moral and spiritual corruption which takes place in the heart of a person who has been given so much and who is so faithless in stewardship; "slothful and wicked" he calls him. When the master talks to this wicked servant, notice he says,

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."

Whatever we believe is our own, "my time," "my money," "my energy," "my talents," "my children," "my house," "my relationships," etc., understand Scripture teaches us all belongs to God. We are just stewards, servants given a stewardship by God for all of these things, but they belong to Him. On the day of reckoning, the day of accounting, God will declare that to be so, "What did you do with My money?" That is the reason why it is so important for us to hold all of these great gifts God gives us with open hands first and say, "God, take these. Take whatever you have given to me, whatever ability you have given to my hands, my mind, my relationships, my resources, and take them. They are Yours. Use them as you will. I consecrate them and I set them apart for Your service." God will ask us to give an account on this day of reckoning and all of us will experience it. No servant will be able to escape it and on that day there will be a clear distinction between servants who have been faithful and servants who have been wicked.

The fourth incentive to live a life of faithful service is: Genuine believers will receive a generous reward from God for their faithfulness. Again we notice what the master does to the one who had taken the five talents and made five talents more,

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."

When God says we have an abundance, it is an abundance. What an incredible reward and treasure these servants received. First, they were told to enter into the joy of their master, the joy of the Lord, and they received a relationship with God. They hear the words, "Well done good and faithful servant." I do not believe there is anymore beautiful words to a person who has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus than those words. We long to hear them.

But, then we find God continues to mount grace upon grace, gift upon gift, treasure upon treasure. Friend, I know God may ask you today to carry a heavy load. Often times there is difficulty as we exercise faithfulness and stewardship. It is hard. It is sweaty. There are thorns in the ground. It is difficult. I know that, but what Jesus teaches us here is there is going to be a day in which the reward from God is going to be so great, so brilliant, and so glorious any difficulty we have experienced will be completely forgotten. It will make that load to seem light compared to what we receive.

The author of Hebrews tells us,

^{11:6} And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

The essence of faith is to simply believe Him. This is the kind of God God is. He rewards those who seek Him. Hebrews 11 continues to account stories of men and women who believed that and it changed their whole life as a result of that principle. Moses enters the court of pharaoh. He could have lived out his life in earthy ease with power and glory and riches and pleasure, but Moses came to the conviction, when learned about God and who God is and to have a lofty view of God and what God would do to faithful servants and how He would reward them,

^{11:26} He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

He would take the very worst Christ had to offer, His reproach when He convicts and corrects Moses, and he would know even that is far greater than all the riches of Egypt because he was looking toward the reward and he knew the day would be there. What a reward it is for those who live their life for the glory of God.

Notice the end of the servant who was unfaithful,

²⁶ “But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant...’ ²⁸ take the talent from him... ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The day of reckoning revealed this person was not truly in Christ and he had not received grace. What solemn words these are to ponder. Throughout all of this servant’s life, he had professed faithfulness and fidelity to the master. It was the day of reckoning that revealed the inner condition of his heart and that is what the day of judgment does to us. Many profess Jesus and their Lord and Savior with their mouth. The warning is here: Are you sure? Do you know that is a reality, that you have a real relationship with the living Lord, that you have received God’s salvation.

Salvation is not by works. It is all by grace through faith in Jesus.⁶ Jesus is teaching us true faith is reflected by a life which serves our faithful God. If there is no service to a faithful God, one must ask, “What do we really believe about God? Are we really committed to Him?” That is the meaning of the story.

J.C. Ryle writes these words on the subject, “So let us leave the parable with a solemn determination by God’s grace never to be content with a profession of Christianity without practice. Let us know only talk about religion, but act. Let us not only feel the importance of religion, but do something too. We are not told that the unprofitable servant was a murderer, or a thief, or even a waster of his Lord’s money. But he did nothing – and this was his ruin. Lest us beware of a do-nothing Christianity. Such Christianity does not come from the Spirit of God.”

Let me share some practical encouragements. Someone may say, “Okay, I am convinced I need a real faith in a real God to have a real salvation.” The first practical encouragement I would give is to come to Christ humbly. God loves to show Himself and reveal Himself to those who are humble and seek His face. Come to Christ and receive His life in your soul.

Someone may say, “I believe I have the life of God in my soul. How do I know what God wants me to do? How do I go about doing that? I want to get busy for the sake of the King and I want to be a faithful steward.” First, confess the sin of being more invested in building your own kingdom than Jesus’ Kingdom. It starts with repentance. The reason why we are not faithful in serving the Lord is because we are faithful in serving our self. Repent of that and confess that as a sin.

Secondly, pray and ask God for His direction. If we honestly pray before the Lord, “God, in my life be glorified. That is my passion,” God will see to it He will direct us by His Spirit.

Third, know Jesus’ church is God’s instrument to advance His work in this world. Connect to the church in a real and significant way. The church can help each of us by working together. None of us can be faithful left isolated from one another. We need each other.

Fourth, talk to spiritual leaders about opportunities and gifts, gifts we may have and opportunities which are available. There are wonderful, spiritual leaders in Bethany Baptist Church and there are others in other churches as well one can talk to.

Fifth, get busy with some Kingdom work. I love the phrase, “God does not steer a parked car.” Get busy by doing something first. There are hundreds of ways to get busy, but get moving.

Sixth, love The Second Coming of Jesus everyday. If we do, we will long for His return and it will change the way we live our daily life. Yearn to hear those words, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

⁶ Ephesians 2:8-9