

HOW TO FULFILL YOUR CALLING UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM SERIES

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Matthew 25:14-29 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ “To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ “In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. ¹⁸ “But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug *a hole* in the ground and hid his ¹master’s money. ¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ “The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ ²¹ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your ¹master.’ ²² “Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ ²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed.* ²⁵ ‘And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed.* ²⁷ ‘Then you ought to have put my money ¹in the bank, and on my arrival, I would have received *my money* back with interest. ²⁸ ‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’ **Matt.** ²⁹ “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ “Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

INTRODUCTION: This is the last message in this series of selected Parables of Jesus. I want to use this one verse to use as a springboard to emphasize calling.



Matthew 25:14 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. (italics mine)

“Everyone has a calling in life. Every person has a destiny. Especially for the followers of Jesus. Jesus ‘called’ His disciples and said, “Follow Me.” Calling gives us purpose in life. Part of our significance and identity has to do with our calling.” Ché Ahn

The parable of the talents is found in Matthew 25 and Luke 19. These are two different parables that do overlap and share the same biblical truths. These parables were significant parables used to bring about the Protestant reformation. The reformers used to these parables to dignify work and as a result, you have one of the greatest characteristics of the Protestant Reformation: the Protestant work ethic. Prior to the Reformation, work was seen as part of the curse and it was just a means to make income to survive.

The amount of money that the business owner gave in Matthew 25 is a huge amount of money. One talent would be the equivalent of ten years of salary. Take your salary and multiply that by ten years. Five talents would be fifty years of your salary. A huge amount of money.

He gave different talents according to ability. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10, don’t compare yourself with others, everyone has a different “*metron.*” *Metron* can mean sphere or ability. At the end of the day, God wants you to be faithful with what you are given.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: I want to share how you can successfully fulfill your calling. In this parable, there are four aspects of one’s calling that every believer needs to work on in our lives.

I. WE ARE CALLED TO BE SERVANTS

A. Matthew 25:14 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

1. Jesus intentionally calls us slaves. This word when used in the Roman empire is talking about the lowest of the low. The lowest class in society. Why did he call us slaves? Later he would say, No longer do I call you servants, but I call you friends.” John 15:15.
2. When you are called by God to be His servant, it is still very heady. You can get proud. You can become arrogant. But, we have to remind ourselves it is not about us. When you know your calling and you start fulfilling it, if you



are not careful, you can fall into conceit. You can start saying: look at my education, look how much money I am making, what I am called to do... e.g. being a doctor, lawyer, etc. So much of our self-worth is based on what we do, how successful we are, and how much money we make. So Jesus emphasizes that we are first called to be servants to keep you from the sin of pride.

3. Pride can destroy your calling. Pride goes before a fall. **C.S. Lewis, “Pride is what made Satan, Satan.”**
4. **Matthew 20:25-28** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
5. **Matthew 23:11-12** “But the greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² “Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
6. **Philippians 2:5-9** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name

7. We need to remind ourselves that we are servants first.

B. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

1. Worship Service, not a worship experience. The word worship means service. Service to whom? To God. It is not about us.
2. Serving and the Law of Apostolic Attraction. What John Dawson, the President of YWAM told me in 1992.
3. Serving the church.

II. WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS

A. **Matthew 25:14** “For *it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.*”

1. A steward is a manager. Like a hotel manager, they run and care for the hotel on behalf of the owner of the hotel.



2. They were not the owners of the talents but managers or stewards of the talents. It is His possession.
3. Stewardship means that everything is the Lord's. Everything is a gift from God. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. Psalm 24
4. **Luke 16:10-12** “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. ¹¹ “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the *use of unrighteous* ^{1a}wealth, who will entrust the true *riches* to you? ¹² “And if you have not been faithful in *the use of that which is another's*, who will give you that which is your own?
5. Faithful with little, faithful with money, faithful working for others.
6. **Colossians 3:23** **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.**
7. Prior to the Reformation, sweeping the streets was the lowest cast job, but the Reformers taught that we are doing our work as unto the Lord. They started to sweep for God's glory.
8. Sue and I have seen everything God has given us the privilege to steward. As a result, God keeps us giving us more. If you are not faithful with your tithes why would God give you more? It is truly an upside-down Kingdom. The more you give away, at His leading, the more God will entrust to you.
9. In 2004, the Lord spoke to Sue and me to give a very sacrificial and large gift to purchase Ambassador Auditorium. That was in 2004. Then, the next year we heard Ed Silviso challenge us to give 51%. We started to increase our giving. It took us five years of graduating giving to reach 51%. You can do this when you have a revelation that everything is God's and we simply want to obey him. Since then, God supernaturally gave us the money to purchase three homes in Pasadena, all nice homes. God is so good. It doesn't make mathematical sense, but God says if you steward well what he has given you, you will receive more to be faithful over. **Matthew 25:29** “**For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance.**”

III. WE ARE CALLED TO CREATE WEALTH

- A. **Matthew 25:16-18** “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and *traded* with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ “In the same manner the one who *had received* the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ “But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his ¹master's money...**Matthew 25:29** “**For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance;**



but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.”

1. Historians say that this parable was the foundation for western capitalism and the spirit of entrepreneurship.
2. Here we see that they went into money trading which even today is a trillion dollar a year business.
3. The Master didn't micromanage the investment. He didn't tell them what to do. He empowered the servants to create wealth.
4. The point is that this parable encourages entrepreneurship. An entrepreneur was to create wealth, but one has to take risks. One servant took no risk, he buried the money and was condemned for that.
5. The servants were not making money for themselves, but for their master. We have to see creating wealth is for the purpose of our Lord's will.
6. That's why we teach "prosperity with a purpose" in our church. It is for the purpose of blessing others. Your family and society. It is for the purpose of bringing honor and glory to God. It is for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission.
7. I want all of you to pray about starting some kind of business on the side and if the side business grows then you can quit your other job, if the Lord wills and concentrate on your own business.
8. If you want to prosper, you have to tithe, live debt-free, and create wealth. At least five sources of revenue. Rent a room out. Purchase some investment property. Have a side MLM.
9. **Deuteronomy 8:18 “But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers.”**

IV. WE ARE CALLED TO BE ACCOUNTABLE

- A. **Matthew 25:19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.”**
- B. **2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” NIV**
 1. **“Everyone should embrace accountability. Accountability trains us to succeed. Accountability helps us to walk in integrity.” Ché Ahn**

V. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS IN FULFILLING YOUR CALLING



A. FIRST, YOU ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS. TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART

B. RECOGNIZE THE NATURAL GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN YOU.

1. What are your strengths? What are your “Motivational Gifts”? This is not your skill sets or education, but what were you born with? What are you good at?
2. **Romans 12:6-8** Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, ¹according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*
3. Focus on your strengths and not your weaknesses.
4. I always had a gift of leadership.

C. THEN LIST YOUR RESOURCES

1. Your educational background?
2. What did your parents give you?
3. What is your financial situation?
4. What are the redemptive gifts of your culture?
5. What is in your hand?

D. WHO IS YOUR CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE AND FRIENDS?

1. It is not what you know but who you know.
2. How can you learn from your friends?
3. Learn the art of asking e.g. Eric Metaxes

