

ENTHRONEMENT UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
FCM 111 : THE POWER OF SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP

TEXT

Matthew 25: 14-30

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one servant and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and made another five talents. And likewise, he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained more talents besides them. His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. He also who has received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, "well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Then he who received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Exodus 23:25

So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you

INTRODUCTION

A steward/ servant is a person entrusted with another's property. The term 'servant' may initially bring to mind 'derogation' but it is actually the most important title and office God recognises as is evidenced by the endearing way He attaches the title of servanthood to Abraham (Genesis

26:24), Moses (Numbers 12:7) and David (Psalms 89:20). The highest aspiration a believer should have, is to be a faithful steward of God.

When we fully understand what it entails to be a true servant and the power of stewardship, we'll be able to apprehend the EXCLUSIVE rewards and benefits attached to service.

A. LAWS OF STEWARDSHIP

1. **Law of the Source:** God is the owner and the giver of all resources

Matthew 25:14

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them

2. **Law of Capacity:** He will always give to everyone according to their various capacities

Matthew 25:15

And to one servant and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey

3. **Law of Accountability:** All will give account of their stewardship

Matthew 25: 19

After a long time, the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

4. **Law of Faithfulness and Promotion:** He that is faithful in little will be given much to manage

Matthew 25: 21

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord

5. **Law of Unfaithfulness and Dispossession:** He that is unfaithful in that which he has shall be disposed.

Matthew 25: 28

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

B. BENEFITS OF SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

1. **You are fulfilling the purpose of your salvation**

Exodus 8:1

And the Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

2. Service is the key to enjoying health

Exodus 23:25

So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you

Proverbs 13:17

A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health.

3. Service is the key to God's blessing

Exodus 23:25

So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you

4. Service exempts you from barrenness, miscarriage, and abortion

Exodus 23: 25-26

So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfil the number of your days.

5. Service grants you the fulfilment of the number of your days

Exodus 23:26

No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfil the number of your days.

6. Service qualifies you for the abundance of all things

Deuteronomy 28:47-49

Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand

7. Service is the key to being spared

Malachi 3:17

They shall be mine, "says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.

8. Service is the key to distinction

Malachi 3:18

Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

9. Service is the key to victory over your enemies

Malachi 4:3

You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this, says the Lord of hosts.

C. CONSEQUENCES OF NOT SERVING GOD

1. Servitude to your enemies

Deuteronomy 28:48

Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

2. Hunger

Deuteronomy 28:48

Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

3. Thirst

Deuteronomy 28:48

Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

4. Nakedness

5. Living in want of all things
Deuteronomy 28:48

Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

6. Yokes of Destruction upon your Necks
Deuteronomy 28:48

Therefore, you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

D. HOW AND WHAT TO SERVE WITH

1. Serve with Joyfulness
Deuteronomy 28:47

Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything.

2. Serve with Gladness of Heart

Deuteronomy 28:47

Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything.

3. Serve Willingly

1Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

4. Serve with your Money

Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in my house, and try me now in this, 'says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Luke6:38

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you sue, it will be measured back to you.

5. Serve with your Time

Ephesians 5:16

Redeeming the time because the days are evil

6. Serve with your Gifts

1Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

7. Serve with your Bodies

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.