

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"

Message: "The Law of Use"

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Is responsibility something to be avoided? And if we have very little, should we seek increase? What should we be doing in the Kingdom of God until Jesus comes again?

Today we will turn our attention to the Law of Use. For this, we're going to turn to Matthew 25.

In Matthew 25 we have the Parable of the Profitable and Unprofitable Servants. Some Bibles might call this parable of Jesus the Parable of the Talents. It starts in verse 14 of Matt 25 -

14“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^c and entrusted to them his property. **15**To one he gave five talents,^d to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **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. **19**Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **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.^e You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your 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.’ **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.’ **26**But 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? **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. **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.’ Matthew 25:14-30 ESV

The Law of Use is found in verse 29. “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.” This is the Law of Use, commonly referred to as “Use It or Lose It.” We are to take what the Master gives and put it to work, to use. We are to improve upon it. To everyone who has, more will be given. But if we fail to use that which God has given to us, even what we have will be taken away.

The Law works both ways. It works both ways as far as Righteousness and Unrighteousness. Follow this law of the Kingdom of God and we see an exponential curve to this. And this Law works regarding everything from muscles and body building, exercise, skills, talents, our minds, our spiritual life, emotional life, relationships, physical things, intellectual things, finances, all types of things. This Law of Use applies to all types of dealings.

Each servant in the parable was given money. A talent was worth about 20 years wages, some say. Each servant was given money according to his ability and that is the point.

The talents represent opportunities to use our abilities. God assigns work and opportunity according to ability. We can note that the Master in this story and this parable is showing wisdom as well as goodness. How so? If 5 talents had been given to a person with minimal ability, we would see that person destroyed by heaving responsibility and an undue expectation. And on the other hand, if only 1 talent had been given to someone with great ability, that person would be disgraced and degraded. So here we see goodness and wisdom on the part of this Master.

Also, we see in this parable that it is our privilege to serve the Lord and multiply His goods. The 3 servants fall into two categories: The Faithful and the Unfaithful. So basically we have the Master, The Faithful Servants, and the Unfaithful Servant as our 3 parts of this parable.

The Faithful Servants took what they had been given and put that to work for the Lord. But the Unfaithful Servant hid his talent in the Earth/ground and instead of using the opportunities or whatever God had given to him, or in this case what the Master had given to him, he buried the talent. And he did it purposely. So by doing nothing, he robbed his lord of service and increase.

The two men who put their money to work each received the same reward or commendation. They both received the same comments from their Master. It wasn't the portion but the proportion that made the difference. They started as servants but the lord promoted them and their Master promoted them to become rulers.

The lesson is: The one who is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much. These have worked and toiled and now they entered into joy. Their faithfulness gave each of them a capacity for greater service and greater responsibility.

Now I don't know why the one servant didn't try to do something with his talent. It says he was afraid. Maybe he feared life and responsibility. Who knows? There was anxiety there, but anyway he buried the talent to protect it. So there was no real risk in that and he didn't put it into a place where it would collect interest. And he was called unprofitable; he was that wicked and lazy servant. He was not pleasing his Master.

It may seem that people with only one talent might think that their talent is not really very important. But that is not the point. It's not what we have but that we are stewards of the Lord. It's because we are appointed as stewards of the Lord that we should work for our Master and try to bring increase. We should be laboring faithfully until the Lord comes. If we are faithful and profitable, we will receive our reward.

There is an exponential curve to this. In other words, if you drew this on a curve basis on a graph, it would go along very slowly at first and then all of a sudden that line would start to turn up and it would escalate with the increase. There is an exponential curve and you can talk to most any stockbroker or person involved with investments that can show you this on a curve, how things grow exponentially. Our part is to be diligent and to be faithful.

We might say, “Because God is, I have.” We have seen this principle operate in the Kingdom of God before. Here it is - Because God is able, I have abilities. Because God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift, I have good gifts from God. I looked up “able” and “ability” in Strong’s concordance and got a random sampling.

In Daniel 1:4, for example, we find we have the ability to serve in the King’s palace. Daniel did, and Daniel was gifted in all wisdom, possessed knowledge, and was quick to understand.

We find that we are able to do things like go forth to war, overcome, give to those in need, work, build a house, profit, live, hear, bear temptation, comprehend, withstand evil, quench the fiery darts of Satan, teach, manage our time, etc. What we learn is that we are to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God. God supplies the ability in order that He may be glorified through Jesus Christ. He is establishing His kingdom and indeed our God reigns.

Scripture tells us that we are to be good stewards. We are to be servants of Jesus Christ, our Master. Now that word “steward” is (oak-an-ah-mus) which just sounds like economics, doesn’t it? We can compare the word “economy.” But it comes from (oy-kas) meaning “house” and (knee-mo) meaning “to arrange.” We are to be managers or to be administrators or trustees. We have a trust entrusted to us. And so for Christians in general it means that we are to use the gifts that have been entrusted to us by the Lord for the purpose of strengthening and encouraging fellow believers.

Listen to 1 Peter 4:10-11: **“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God, if anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability which God supplies, that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever, Amen.”**

“Use it or lose it”, that’s the way most refer to the Law of Use in the Kingdom of God. May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace and ability to discover, develop, and use the gifts God has given us as good stewards. Let us be faithful in that which is least that we might be blessed and able to be faithful also in much. Let us seek the Lord for grace to manage our house well and to His pleasing. And let us not fear or run away from responsibility, but remember this from Charles Spurgeon, who said, “Tend not to the honor, but tend to the responsibility.” And may we glorify God through Jesus Christ to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,

Which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV

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