

## Jesus Continues to Describe the Kingdom of Heaven and Our Role In It

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### **Matthew 25:14-19** (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to **his ability**. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned **and settled accounts with them**.

I have always viewed the talents, as not only the spiritual gift or an innate ability I have, but also all of the people and resources (you are talents, this buildings, radio, TV, internet) all that God has given me. I will be accountable someday for my stewardship in this area.

**You are thinking, what in the world is he talking about?**

Will we be held accountable for what we do on earth? Listen.

### **Luke 12:48** (NIV)

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

When will it be demanded and how will it be determined?

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** (NIV)

The apostle Paul tells us,

<sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because **the Day** will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-10** (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> **We live by faith, not by sight.** <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it **our goal to please him**, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup> 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.

We hear this warning in,

### **Proverbs 27:1** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth. You say well that's Old Testament.

### **James 4:13-17** (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. **What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.** <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, **"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."** <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> **Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.**

**What should I do? Just do what you know is right, when you have opportunity to do good simply do it.**

Listen to Paul's attitude;

### **Philippians 3:12-14** (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.** <sup>13</sup> Brethren,

I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,  
<sup>14</sup> **I press toward the goal for the prize** of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

At the end of Pauls' life;

**2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, **and the time of my departure is at hand.**

<sup>7</sup> **I have fought** the good fight, **I have finished** the race, **I have kept** the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me **on that Day**, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Are you a **fighter**?

Are you a **finisher**?

Are you one **to keep on**?

**John 15:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and **appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.** Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

**Illustration: The rope!**