

Partnering with God #3

Review:

1. God Owns the Earth

- Deu 10:14 (NIV) To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

- 1Co 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

- **All that we have, see and enjoy on the earth belongs to God – including our bodies...**

2. God has given us (humanity) authority over the earth

- Gen 1:26-29 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may RULE over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number; REPLENISH the earth and SUBDUE it. RULE OVER the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**" [

- God has given the earth into our OUR hands to:

- REPLENISH – To care for

- SUBDUE – To use for our benefit

- RULE OVER – To Have Authority Over

TODAY

3. God has made us PARTNERS with Him...

- Jesus told a parable about God's expectations for partnership with us

A PARABLE ABOUT PARTNERSHIP (READ IT FIRST...)

Mat 25:14-29 (NIV) "Again, (THE KINGDOM OF GOD - vs.1) it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

LUKE'S VERSION: Luke 19:12-13 (NIV) He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. [13] So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

A TALENT = 80 pounds of Silver, 6,00 denarii, one talent = 20 years of labor Today's Equivalent \$500,000 - \$1 million)

[15] To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, **each according to his ability.** Then he went on his journey.

[16] The man who had received five talents went at once and **put his money to work** and gained five talents more. [17] So also, the one with two talents of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

[19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' [21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! **You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!**'

[22] "The man with two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' [23] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! **You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.** Come and share your master's happiness!'

[24] "Then the man who had received one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] **So I was afraid and went out and hid your money in the ground.** See, **here is what belongs to you.**' [26] "His master replied, 'You **wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

[27] Well then, **you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers,** so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. [28] "**So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.** [29] **For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.**

Let's UNPACK THIS INCREDIBLE PARABLE ABOUT PARTNERSHIP...

Mat 25:14-29 (NIV) "Again, (THE KINGDOM OF GOD - vs.1) it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

[15] To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, **each according to his ability.** Then he went on his journey.

PAUSE: Important Facts...

- **WHAT IS THIS PARABLE ABOUT?** – It is about the Kingdom of God = What it looks like when God is allowed to be in charge.
- **WHAT IS A TALENT?** = (REVIEW) =80 pounds of Silver worth 6,00 denarii, **1 Talent = 20 years of labor**
 - That's \$500,000 or \$1 million in today's money
- **WHO OWNS THE TALENTS** – Note that the Master OWNS THE SILVER...
- **WHAT IS THE COMMISSION?** Luke 19:12-13 (NIV) He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. [13] So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'
 - THE COMMISSION IS TO "DO BUSINESS FOR ME (Like I do it) UNTIL I COME BACK
- **WHO ARE THESE MEN?** – They are His Servants = His investors = people who are servants to the Noble and are given His resources to invest "EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY"
 - **We don't know but Perhaps there are servants who do not qualify to handle His resources?**

[16] The man who had received five talents went at once and **put his money to work** and gained five talents more. [17] So also, the one with two talents of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

- NOTE:

- The activity of faithful servants is to "PUT HIS RESOURCES TO WORK" = INVESTED
 - According to the investment pattern of the MASTER
- The activity of investment is RISKY
 - The potential for loss is great!
 - When investing... some of the investments don't pay out... others pay-out big time!
- The RESULT of investment (in the kingdom) is MULTIPLICATION
 - The eventuality of INVESTING like the Master is GREAT REWARD!!

[19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' [21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! **You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!**'

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- NOTE: What does the Noble offer the Faithful Servants?
 - APPRECIATION – They were given APPROVAL (for more investment)
 - RESPONSIBILITIES – They were given MORE RESOURCES to invest for Him
 - HAPPINESS (JOY) – They were given JOY in life (use of the Master's wealth)

[24] "Then the man who had received one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] **So I was afraid and went out and hid your money in the ground.** See, **here is what belongs to you.**' [26] "His master replied, 'You **wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, **you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers,** so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

NOTE:

- FEAR – The Third Servant responded in Fear to the concept of Investment
 - He was afraid of INVESTING like the Master did = He didn't want to lose his money
- DISOBEYED – He did not INVEST the money as the MASTER ordered
 - He treated the money like it was His... He did what **He** thought should be done with it
- MISUNDERSTOOD – The Servant misunderstood the response of the Master
 - He thought that the Master would be happy with His disobedience

[28] "**So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.** [29] **For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.**

NOTE:

- THE ECONOMY OF HEAVEN IS NOT LIKE ON THE EARTH
- GOD GIVES MORE TO THOSE WHO ARE RISKY INVESTORS
 - o TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO USE HIS RESOURCES – HE GIVES MORE AND MORE!

This story is about HOW THE KINGDOM OF GOD operates...

- It is a very practical description of HOW TO CARRY (Steward) THE KINGDOM
- It contains ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES for how God operates
- It contains ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS for how WE PARTICIPATE in the Kingdom of God

WE ALL ARE PROBABLY AWARE THAT

- THE MASTER IN THIS PARABLE REPRESENTS GOD
- THE SERVANTS REPRESENT BELIEVERS
- BUT MOST OF US HAVE NOT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE TALENTS IN THE STORY REPRESENT
 - o WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT'S ABOUT TALENTS OR MONEY...

Portions of this parable USED TO BOTHER ME!

1. Why does give more of His kingdom to some and less to others?
 - IT IS AN ONGOING EVALUATION = TO THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL HE GIVES MORE
2. Why does He take the talent away from the servant who became afraid?
 - IT'S NOT ABOUT FAIRNESS... IT'S ABOUT OBEDIENCE AND FRUITFULNESS!
3. Why does the master seems unloving and harsh to His servants
 - IT seems like all he wants is to make money!

- NO, IT'S NOT ABOUT MAKING MONEY = ITS ABOUT BLESSING EVERYONE!
- 4. Finally, Why does the Master give the talent to the One who has Ten?
- WHY DOESN'T HE SPLIT IT UP AMONG THEM SO EVERYONE GETS PART OF IT?
- ITS BECAUSE THE SERVANT WITH 10 TALENTS KNOWS HOW TO INVEST

THIS PARBLE VIOLATES MY "SENSE OF FAIRNESS"

- In my mind, everyone should gets an equal share of the resources
 - o no matter how faithful or fearful they are
 - o no matter who they are – or what they do!

What is this passage really about?

- Is it just about "our talents?" = our God-given abilities?
- Is it just about "silver?" = Our money and possessions? (DON'T ANSWER THE QUESTION)

THIS PARABLE IS ABOUT...

- REVEALING THE CHARACTAR OF GOD
- REVEALING WHAT IT MEANS TO PARTNER WITH HEAVEN
- WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO WITH EVERYTHING THAT HE GIVEN INTO OUR HANDS
 - o IT IS ALL ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FAITHFUL
 - ITS ABOUT HOW TO MAINTAIN GOD'S BLESSING...
 - o It is all about PARTNERSHIP

1. IN THIS PARABLE – WE DISCOVER THAT JESUS IS LIKE A VERY WEALTHY MAN WHO IS GOING AWAY

- The man is **EXTREMELY WEALTHY**
 - o He has been INVESTING his resources in the Community
 - INVESTING IN A BUSINESS – (Buys a vineyard or a grainfield)
 - BUISINESS PRODUCES JOBS – benefit the community
 - BUISINESS PRODUCES RESOURCES (wine, grain etc..) benefit the community
 - MASTER RECEIVES DIVIDENDS – that enable Him to make more investments
 - o **THESE SERVANT have been helping Him to do HIS BUSINESS!**
 - We know this because the scripture says "He gave each according to his ability.."

2. HE CALLS IN HIS SERVANTS AND ENTRUSTS HIS IMMENSE WEALTH TO THEM

- TO ONE – he gives 5 bags of silver (5 million dollars)
 - o because he has proven to be SUPREMEPLY ABLE to do business for the master
- TO ANOTHER – he gives 2 bags of silver (2 million dollars)
 - o Because he is EXCELLENT at doing business for the master
- TO THIRD – he gives 1 bag of silver (1 million dollars)
 - o because he is GOOD at doing business for the master
- TO OTHERS – He does not give his resources – because they have not managed his resources well

3. HIS INSTRUCTIONS... "Put this money to work until I return.."

- BASICALLY, "DO WHAT I WOULD DO WITH MY RESOURCES UNTIL I COME BACK..."
 - o QUESTION: Who does the money belong to? – It belongs to the Master
 - o QUESTION: Who get's full use of the money? – His servants (They can do anything they want)
 - o QUESTION: What are they supposed to do with it? – Do business with it as the master would
 - o His plan is that His servants would continue to INVEST his resources in the community and continue to RECEIVE the dividends of that investment.

- They were to continue HIS BUSINESS just like HE would until he returns
- THIS IS NOT A BAD DEAL
 - These stewards would have lived a life of plenty
 - They would have benefitted greatly by use of the masters wealth
 - No problems with shelter or food
 - THEY WOULD LIVE LIKE KINGS!

4. THEY WERE ALSO RISKS

- ALL INVESTMENTS ARE RISKY
 - Servants would have to be DILLIGENT
 - Make some less risky investments with slow return
 - Make MORE RISKY investments with LARGE return
 - Collecting revenue
 - Making payments
- THERE WOULD BE SOME LOSSES
 - Unwise investments
 - SOMETIMES you lose the money
 - You could earn disfavor with the boss
- THERE WOULD BE GREAT GAIN
 - Wise investments
 - You could make A LOT OF MONEY
- THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MASTER
 - THIS STRATEGY (we discover) WILL PRODUCE GREAT GAINS FOR EVERYONE!

6. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MASTER GIVES YOU RESOURCES AND YOU BURY IT

- [26] "His master replied, 'You **wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, **you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers,** so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. [28] **"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.**

HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THE MASTER IS ALL ABOUT DISTRIBUTION AND MULTIPLICATION OF HIS RESOURCES....

- THE MASTER = WANTS TO USE HIS RESOURCES TO PRODUCE GOODS AND FOOD AND TO GIVE JOBS IN HIS KINGDOM...
- THE MASTER IS A GOOD LEADER WHO WANTS TO BLESS EVERYONE UNDER HIS REIGN
 - THE LAST THING HE WANTS IS FOR HIS RESOURCES TO BE BURIED WHERE
 - NO ONE WILL ENJOY IT
 - NO ONE WILL BENEFIT FROM IT
 - NO MULTIPLICATION CAN HAPPEN
 - HIDING THE RESOURCES THAT GOD HAS GIVEN IS NOT THE PLAN OF GOD FOR HIS SERVANTS!!
 - WE DISCOVER THAT GOD IS AN BOLD AND EXTRAVAGANT INVESTOR!
 - HE REAPS WHERE HE DOES NOT SOW!

- GOD IS ABOUT USING HIS KINGDOM RESOURCES TO BENEFIT EVERYONE
 - He is constantly using His resources to BENEFIT OTHERS
 - To produce SPIRITUAL RESOURCES
 - To give EACH ONE US PARTNERSHIP IN HIS RICHES & GLORY
 - THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT STAGNANT!
 - THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIFE ENRICHING & PRODUCING
- **GOD IS NOT ABOUT HIDING HIS AMAZING RESOURCES**
 - GOD IS ABOUT MULTIPLICATION
 - GOD IS ABOUT REVEALING HIS RICHES AND GLORY TO THE WORLD

7. IN THIS PARABLE WE DISCOVER THAT...

- **...GOD WILL GIVE HIS KINGDOM FREELY TO ANYONE WHO WILL USE IT FOR HIS GLORY**
 - HE WILL GIVE IT TO THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO INVEST IT
 - HE WILL GIVE MORE... AND MORE... AND MORE TO THOSE WHO INVEST IT LIKE HE DOES
 - SO THAT SOME OF HIS CHILDREN ARE INCREDIBLY ENDOWED WITH HIS GLORY
 - TODD WHITE – describes being faithful to just do what God was saying
- **...GOD WILL TAKE HIS KINGDOM AWAY FROM THOSE WHO HIDE IT..**
 - This is so offensive to American minds...
 - So many people complain about God while being inactive in what He has given them
 - God has given them resources (gifts, talents, callings)
 - BUT THEY DON'T INVEST THEM IN OTHERS...
 - **THEY BURY WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN THEM**
 - **SO GOD TAKES IT AWAY AND GIVES IT TO OTHERS WHO WILL INVEST IT AS HE WOULD**
- THAT IS WHAT THIS PASSAGE MEANS WHEN IT SAYS:
 - **For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.**
 - DO YOU SEE... GOD IS SHOWING US THAT MANAGING HIS KINGDOM RESOURCES IS NOT ACCORDING TO HUMAN PRINCIPLES... IT IS ACCORDING TO KINGDOM PRINCIPLES...
 - **HE WANTS US TO SUCCEED IN THE KINGDOM – IT JUST MEANS TAKING WHAT HE GIVES US AND BEING GOOD STEWARDS – DOING WHAT HE WOULD DO WITH IT**

THIS IS THE THIRD SERMON IN A SERIES

- WE ARE GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT IT MEANS TO CARRY/ STEWARD THE KINGDOM IN FOUR WAYS
 - Our Affections – God gives us passions and loves.. How to we invest those
 - The word of the Lord – when He talks to us
 - Our Time – what does it mean to INVEST our time rather than SPEND it
 - Our Resources – What does it mean that God owns everything..

STEWARDSHIP OUR AFFECTIONS (Biblical terminology = “The Heart”)

“Affection” – (Wikipedia) Psychological/ philosophical idea

- 1. Affection or fondness is a "disposition or state of mind or body"
 - o “Affection” is often associated with a feeling or type of love. It has given rise to a number of branches of philosophy and psychology concerning emotion, influence, and state of being.

“Heart” (Thayer) Biblical conceptualization

- The SEAT OF LIFE (subjectively, philosophically, religiously)
 - o As the heart is CENTRAL and can be “FELT” and “HEARD” – therefore it is primary for life
 - o Affected and activated by EMOTIONS (love, fear, hate etc.)
 - Emotions create a visceral & somatic sensation in the heart
- THE SEAT OF THE HUMAN SOUL
 - o the fountain of emotions, desires, passions, affections, love and hate.
 - o **The sense organ of the soul** - as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

STEWARDSHIP YOUR HEART (Affections) SCRIPTURES

“Managing” your heart (AFFECTIONS)

- **Pro 4:23 (NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**
 - o Guard = Keep, watch over, manage
 - o Heart = Affections, feelings, motivations
 - o “Everything flows” = Everything is motivated by your affections
 - Like a spring... It is the source of all life

“Storing up” in the heart (Affections)

- Luke 6:43-45 (NIV) "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. [44] Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. [45] A good man brings **good (things) out of the good stored up in his heart**, and an evil man brings **evil (things) out of the evil stored up in his heart**. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
 - o Good fruit is produced by cultivating good affections
 - Managing your affections well - Storing up good – produces good life fruit
 - o Bad Fruit is produced by cultivating evil affections
 - Managing your affections poorly – Storing up evil – produces bad life fruit

“Retaining” in the heart (Affections)

- Mat 13:19 (NIV) When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not **understand (receive) it**, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown **in their heart**. This is the seed sown along the path.
 - o Good Affections are sown by God
 - o We must “receive” the good (take it in)
 - Cultivate it
 - o Good affections that are “received” produce much fruit
 - o Good affections that are NOT “received” are stolen by the Evil one

What do you love?

- **You have the ability to choose your affections...**
 - o Some life interests are self-serving
 - They are good for sabbath but destructive as a life pursuit
 - EXAMPLES: leisure, recreation, collecting material things

- Others are kingdom pursuits (God-serving)
 - Gifts - the ways that God has uniquely enabled you
 - Using your creative gifts to bless/encourage others
 - Using your management abilities to multiply the kingdom
 - Writing, coaching, listening etc..
 - Callings – The spiritual vocation that God has given to you
 - FIVE FOLD -Prophetic, Pastoral, Evangelistic, Teaching, Apostolic
 - Ability to make money – invest in kingdom businesses
 - Ability to counsel others etc..
- **BURYING THEIR AFFECTION THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU**
 - I know a Christian man who loves cars...
 - He spends more TIME & ENERGY on his car than anything else
 - Driving, washing, fixing
 - He spends MONEY on his car...
 - Gas, upgrades,

- Jesus taught; **Mat 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

MANAGING YOUR AFFECTIONS IS PRIMARY BECAUSE IT DETERMINES WHAT YOU VALUE

- Where will you spend/invest your time
- Where will you spend/invest your energy
- **What will you give yourself to... in this life?**

LET'S GET QUIET – LISTEN TO THE LORD..

What ARE THE AFFECTIONS that God has given to you to manage?

- ARE You affectionate about being with Him
 - God is calling you deeper!
- ARE YOU AFFECTIONATE ABOUT SERVING OTHERS
 - God is calling you to step in and serve with His passion.
- HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A CREATIVE ABILITY
 - Writing, music, painting etc..
- HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A PASSION FOR DISCIPLESHIP
 - How have you been investing this
 - Do you meet with others to bless & care for them

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE HEART

Obedient of Heart

- Deu 10:12; Deu 11:13; Deu 26:16; 1Ki 2:4; Psa 119:112; Eph 6:6; Rom 6:17; Rom 10:10

Trusting with all your heart

- Pro 3:5

Love with all your heart

- Mat 22:37

Fidelity/ Faithful of heart

- Neh 9:8

Zealous of heart

- Jer 20:9

THE HEART SHOULD SEEK...

God

- 2Ch 19:3; 2Ch 30:19; Ezr 7:10; Psa 10:17; Psa 84:2

To be joyful

- 1Sa 2:1; Psa 4:7; Psa 97:11; Isa 65:14; Zec 10:7

To be perfect

- 1Ki 8:61; Psa 101:2

To be upright

- Psa 97:11; Psa 125:4

To be clean

- Psa 51:10; Psa 73:1

To be pure

- Psa 24:4; Pro 22:11; Mat 5:8; 1Ti 1:5; 2Ti 2:22; Jas 4:8; 1Pe 1:22

To be sincere

- Luk 8:15; Act 2:46; Eph 6:5; Col 3:22; Heb 10:22

To be repentant

- Deu 30:2; Psa 34:18; Psa 51:17

To be devout

- 1Sa 1:13; Psa 4:4; Psa 9:1; Psa 27:8; Psa 77:6; Psa 119:10; Psa 119:69; Psa 119:145

To be wise

- 1Ki 3:9; 1Ki 3:12; 1Ki 4:29; Job 9:4; Pro 8:10; Pro 10:8; Pro 11:29; Pro 14:33; Pro 23:15

To be tender

- 1Sa 24:5; 2Ki 22:19; Job 23:16; Psa 22:14; Eph 4:32

To be holy

- Psa 66:18; 1Pe 3:15

To be compassionate

- Jer 4:19; Lam 3:51

To be lowly

- Mat 11:29

-