

Overflow of Prosperity

I need to circle back to our first sermon in this series

When we consider overflow there is one fundamental question we must answer.

We can't move forward till we answer this question

Is God's desire lack, insufficiency, scarcity or is His will abundance, bountifulness and plenty?

In the OT lack, famine and scarcity were always a result of disobedience and a lack of faith.

The Blessing was always a means to abundance and plenty.

So if God's will is abundance, plenty and overflow what do we need do to get into the flow of the overflow?

Rom 5:17 (NASB) For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.

Reign = βασιλεύω **basileúō**; fut. **basileúsō**, from **basileús** (G935), a king. To reign, rule, be king, to enjoy the honor and prosperity of kings;

"The secret of reigning in life lies with receiving everything that Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross."

We reign in life by faith not by effort.

How our life would be different if we simply let the scripture say what the scriptures say instead of changing the word to fit our world.

Perhaps just perhaps our world could change to fit the Word.

After all the objective of faith is.....Let's say it together.

Faiths ultimate objective is to make God's truth our reality

In order for the Word to bring about the change in our lives needed to make God's truth our reality we must mix faith with the Word that is heard.

Heb 4:2 (AMPC) For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them]; **but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it;** neither were they united in faith with the ones [Joshua and Caleb] who heard (did believe).

When the word challenges our worldview. When the Word confronts our preconceived ideas and notions and it will!

The Word is very confrontational, very few scriptures fit nicely into our world, most of the scripture confronts us and challenges us to repent, change and grow.

So when the word confronts us do we lean into it and absolutely trust God's power, wisdom and goodness?

If we don't the Word will not benefit us, bring us any advantage or profit.

Deu 28:13 (NASB) "And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you will only be above, and not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God which I am commanding you today, to follow them carefully,

Can we believe that?

Some of us have never been the head we've only ever been the tail.

Can we imagine ourselves being above and not beneath?

As we get started I want to say that **your overflowing prosperity is prepared but not predestined**

Mat 25:15 (NASB) “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.

The title "talents" is unfortunate, in that in our language we use the word "talent" to refer to natural aptitudes or abilities that people have.

The talent in this story was a weight, and its value depended on whether the object weighed was copper, silver, or gold. In the story, talents were given to the several men according to their "abilities".

Mat 25:15-30 (TPT) Before he left on his journey, he entrusted a bag of five thousand gold coins to one of his servants, to another a bag of two thousand gold coins, and to the third a bag of one thousand gold coins, each according to his ability to manage. [16] “The one entrusted with five thousand gold coins immediately went out and traded with the money, and he doubled his investment. [17] In the same way, the one who was entrusted with two thousand gold coins traded with the sum and likewise doubled his investment. [18] But the one who had been entrusted with one thousand gold coins dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. [19] “After much time had passed, the master returned to settle accounts with his servants. [20] The one who was entrusted with five thousand gold coins came and brought ten thousand, saying, ‘See, I have doubled your money.’ [21] “Commending his servant, the master replied, ‘You have done well, and proven yourself to be my loyal and trustworthy servant. **Because** you have been a **faithful** steward to manage a small sum, now I will put you in charge of much, much more. You will experience the delight of your master, who will say to you, “Come celebrate with me!”’

Mat 25:21 (NASB) “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 the joy of your master.’

[22] “Then the one who had been entrusted with two thousand gold coins came in and said, ‘See, my master, I have doubled what you have entrusted to me.’ [23] “Commending his servant, the master replied, ‘You have done well, and proven yourself to be my loyal and trustworthy servant. Because you were **faithful** to manage a small sum, now I will put you in charge of much, much more. You will experience the delight of your master, who will say to you, “Come celebrate with me!”” [24] “Then the one who had been entrusted with one thousand gold coins came to his master and said, ‘Look, sir. I know that you are a hard man to please and you’re a shrewd and ruthless businessman who grows rich on the backs of others. [25] I was afraid of you, so I went and hid your money and buried it in the ground. But here it is—take it, it’s yours.’ [26] “Angered by what he heard, the master said to him, ‘You’re an untrustworthy and lazy servant! If you knew I was a shrewd and ruthless business man who always makes a profit, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? [27] Then I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. [28] But because you were **unfaithful**, I will take the one thousand gold coins and give them to the one who has ten thousand. [29] For the one who has will be given more, until he overflows with abundance. And the one with hardly anything, even what little he has will be taken from him.’ [30] “Then the master said to his other servants, ‘Now, throw that good-for-nothing servant far away from me into the outer darkness, where there will be great misery and anguish!’”

This parable focuses primarily upon the useless servant.

HE WAS USELESS BECAUSE HE DENIED HIS OPPORTUNITY

It was opportunity not destiny that dictated his position.

The Lord gave them opportunity without instructions.

They used their opportunities to the best of their abilities and gained greater responsibilities.

Gifts that are not used are lost.

Opportunities that are ignored are costly.

P- PASSED

O- OVER

O - OPPORTUNITY

R- REPEATEDLY

Dr. Mark Rutland said, Add to your life and God will use what you added to your life to add to your life.

Increase your abilities and you will have increased opportunities.

It would be best to interpret the talents as opportunities.

And in the parable each of the men is given opportunity according to ability and is expected to serve faithfully.

This is a parable on responsibility.

The topic or main point is accountability.

The gift and the responsibility were commensurate.

1Co 4:2 (KJV) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found **faithful**.

The men who had received five and two talents respectively took risks; they applied themselves actively in their responsibility. But the unfaithful servant thought only of himself and his security, risked nothing, and achieved nothing.

On the Master's return there is an accounting from each. The two servants, representing faithful disciples, **had transformed opportunity into action.**

The response of the Master reveals His joy; the *"good and faithful"* servants enter the joy of their Master. But as soon as the unfaithful servant opens his mouth, it is evident that he was not interested in his Lord's cause or advantage but rather in saving his own skin.

He was judged according to his conduct.

What was given was taken away, "For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it... ." The story closes with the language of destruction in outer darkness—the symbol of the anguish of ultimate separation.

A possible but simple outline follows:

The Master

- (1) entrusted responsibility to his servants;
- (2) increased responsibility for faithfulness;
- (3) judged inexcusable irresponsibility.

Mat 6:33 (NASB) "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you."