

***Possessing the Territory
Fulfilling Your Responsibility
Matthew 25:14-30***

Our focus theme for this series is as follows

Jesus is releasing the victory He won on the Cross through His body, the Church as He advances His Kingdom here on earth.

During this series we have been attempting to unlock THREE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS to move from FAILURE into VICTORY!

The first Essential Component is...

“Knowing Your Identity”

Last week we looked at the second Essential Component...

“Unleashing Your Authority”

This week I’ve titled the message, “Fulfilling Your Responsibility!”

Our key truth for today is...

The believer’s responsibility is a FAITH RESPONSE to GOD’S ABILITY.

SCRIPTURAL ANSWERS

Jesus was in the last hours of His earthly life

He had told His disciples about the destruction of the Temple

They were seated on the Mount of Olives when his disciples asked, “When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of this age?”

Jesus began telling them about the things that will take place prior to His return

WATCH EXPECTANTLY

He then told them that life would seem to go on and people would begin saying that He is not returning

WAIT PATIENTLY

Finally, He talked to them about fulfilling their purpose here on earth while they WATCH and WAIT

WORK FAITHFULLY

WATCH EXPECTANTLY

WAIT PATIENTLY

WORK FAITHFULLY

You have been crafted by God for a great purpose

The greatness of your purpose may not be recognized here on earth or even in your lifetime on earth

But, what you DO with the talents, abilities, gifts, and opportunities given to you by the Lord last not only in this life, but for all eternity

Many people feel as though they have nothing to offer in the Lord's service

... No ABILITY...

As a result, they justify their SPIRITUAL INACTIVITY

This is a PASSIVE MINDSET!!!! It must be broken!!!

To combat a PASSIVE MINDSET, Jesus told them the parable in Matthew 25:14-30.

1. The REALITY of our CAPABILITY

Matthew 25:14–15 (ESV) — For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

First of all, what is a talent?

A talent in this passage is NOT ...

- **Being able to run fast**
- **Being highly intelligent**

A talent is a monetary amount...

It is equivalent to 20 years of a laborer's wages...

If we said that the common laborer makes \$25K per year...

- **One talent = \$500K**
- **Two talents = \$1M**
- **Five talents = \$2.5M**

The point here is that each one was given a sizeable amount of money to steward...

TRUTH → Jesus has given each one of His followers a sizeable amount of His ANOINTING to steward!

Luke 12:48b (NLT) — ... When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

So we must each function within the MEASURE OF FAITH the Lord has given each of us...

Romans 12:3–5 (ESV) — For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

The believer's responsibility is a faith response to God's ability.

1. The REALITY of our CAPABILITY

2. The CERTAINTY of our ACCOUNTABILITY

Matthew 25:19 (ESV) — Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Do not be deceived!

We will each give ACCOUNT for how we invested the spiritual “TALENT” the Lord has given us!

Romans 14:12 (NLT) — Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

There has been a dangerous deception within the Church that basically says, “What does it matter? I’m going to be in heaven!”...

If that is your attitude, KNOW THIS IS NOT FROM GOD!

In fact, I believe that a person “resting” in that lie and unmoved by the promptings of the Holy Spirit is probably not a genuine follower of Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) — For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Know that I am soberly aware that I will stand before the Lord and give an account for how I’ve shepherded His people...

Hebrews 13:17a (NLT) — Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. ...

Leadership within the Church is wonderful, but humbling

James 3:1 (NLT) — Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

The believer’s responsibility is a faith response to God’s ability.

1. The REALITY of our CAPABILITY

2. The CERTAINTY of our ACCOUNTABILITY

3. The FALLACY of our INABILITY

Matthew 25:24–27 (ESV) — 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 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? 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.

Many believers have, for whatever reason, buried the spiritual anointing the Lord has given them...

- **Maybe because they feel unequipped...**
- **Maybe because they fear failing...**

Our problem is that we forget we are CHILDREN of God!

We think too much like ADULTS rather than God’s CHILDREN!

→ *Story of Harper looking for Hogan*

- **About this time last Sunday, we had a family emergency...**
- **Hogan, the dog of my oldest son, Kevin, ran off...**



- ***They have had the dog for almost 12 years and needless to say, the family was frantic...***
- ***Kevin and his wife, Blaire have three children and one on the way!***



- ***When they discovered Hogan had taken off they began a frantic search for him...***
- ***Before they left, however, Harper, my 6 year old granddaughter, went into “PROBLEM SOLVING MODE!”***
- ***She went and got Hogan’s treats...***
- ***She laid one treat on the floor in the house in case he was somewhere in the house and wasn’t paying attention...***
- ***She laid a second treat in the driveway so that if he came home he would have it and then stay for more***

- ***She then took the bag of treats with her so that when they found him he would follow her for more treats...***
- ***Just before Harper and the twins got in the car with Blaire to begin their search, Harper realized they would need a picture of Hogan to show people...***
- ***So Harper ran inside and got her picture of Hogan...***
- ***As they went down the street looking for him they would meet people out walking...***
- ***Harper, crying in a panicked despair, would show them the picture of Hogan and ask them if they had seen him...***
- ***Here is the picture she was showing everyone she saw...***



- ***Thankfully they found Hogan after a 3 hour search!***

In the eyes of a child, this is obviously Hogan

Matthew 19:14 (ESV) — Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Your seeming *INABILITY* is a *FALACY*!

It's time to dig up your *SPIRITUAL ANOINTING* and *GET AFTER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!*

The believer's responsibility is a faith response to God's ability.

1. The REALITY of our CAPABILITY

2. The CERTAINTY of our ACCOUNTABILITY

3. The FALLACY of our INABILITY

4. The VICTORY through our DEPENDABILITY

Matthew 25:20–23 (ESV) — 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.'

More than anything else I want to hear the Lord speak these precious words to me...

Matthew 25:21 (ESV) — '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.'

Remember our *KEY TRUTH* for today

The believer's responsibility is a faith response to God's ability.

Remember it's *GOD'S ABILITY NOT YOURS!!!*

Philippians 4:13 (NLT) — For I can do all things through CHRIST, who gives me strength.

It doesn't say, "I can do all things..."

- *If I try harder...*
- *If I give it everything I've got...*
- *If I go to more Bible Studies...*
- *If I ...*

It says, "I can do all things through CHRIST who gives me strength!"

The Lord is not looking for *PERFECTION*, but *PERFORMANCE*!

Luke 12:42–43 (ESV) — And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

**Possessing the Territory
Fulfilling Your Responsibility
Matthew 25:14-30**

To the _____ that believers _____ their
_____ will they _____ and _____ Christ's
_____!

1. The _____ of our _____

2. The _____ of our _____

3. The _____ of our _____

4. The _____ through our _____