

# **HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY—PATRICK WALTON**

*A Series About Our Values—10.25.2020*

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## **Week 5 | “Our Commitment To Serving”**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Glenda Malmin from Portland Bible College rightly said, when it comes to serving that, “*what I am a part of, is more important than the part that I play.*” This phrase helps us rightly sum up our intentions here at Legacy Church.
- B. Our goal as a ministry is to raise up people who are serving on behalf of the whole, not just an isolated area. When it comes to God’s kingdom, a win in one area, is a win for the whole. If one Church down the street grows, the whole Church grows. If someone gets saved in India, it just doesn’t grow the Church in India, it grows the Church worldwide.
- C. At Legacy Church we have a total of 7 values that guide how we do ministry; (1) Having a commitment to the Bible (2) Cultivating hunger for Jesus (3) Serving God by serving others (4) Being a dependent people (5) Growing as disciples of Jesus (6) Reaching those that are far from Christ (7) Becoming a diverse family.
- D. Our faithfulness in whatever God has given to us, becomes the proving ground for us to receive more in the grace of God. Today we are going to talk about our value of serving, becoming a Christ centered, servant orientated people. A people who are serving Christ by way of serving others.

### **II. SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM TEXT (MATT. 25:14-30)**

- A. Did you know that you’re a steward? Did you know that you’re a manager? Did you know that you’re an overseer? The wrong question to ask ourselves is, are we a steward? The right question to ask ourselves is, are we a good steward or a bad steward? Are we a good or bad manager?
- B. We’ve all been given something from Jesus, and what we’ve been given will come with an evaluation from Him based solely on what we did with what we were given!
- C. In **Matthew 24-25** we have what’s called the Olivet Discourse where Jesus is speaking from the Mount of Olives about both His second coming, and the events that will surround His second coming. In **Matthew 25** there is a total of three parables (*stories with hidden/profound meaning*) that Jesus tells.
- D. In **Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus speaks about the 10 virgins. In **Matthew 25:14-30** Jesus speaks about the 3 stewards/servants. And in **Matthew 25:31-46** Jesus speaks about the sheep and the goats. It’s important to understand that these aren’t random or haphazard stories, and they aren’t stories that are separated from His second coming. In the original language there is no break between **Matthew 24-25**, which means this is one continued sermon, or one continued thought.
- E. In this parable of the 3 servants that we are going to look at today, Jesus is preparing us for His second coming by telling this parable, which helps us ask two really important/eternal questions;
  1. Am I serving the Lord?
  2. Am I serving others because I love the Lord?
- F. Let’s look at some specific observations from these 16 verses;

1. **Matthew 25:14**    *“For the Kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”*
  - a. Out of the gate, the Bible, though speaking about what looks like a business transaction, what looks like a marketplace discussion between employer and employee, what looks like life in this world, is actually about the Kingdom of God. Though it looks similar, it's very different.
2. **Matthew 25:15**    *“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”*
  - a. A talent wasn't a coin, it was a measurement of money, a weight. Because these weights came in different types (Gold, Silver, Copper), we don't know how much money it was.
  - b. But most folks agree that it was likely hundreds of thousands of dollars.
  - c. But money isn't the central part of this story. Not only is money misused, so also are many of the things God gives us; *our gifts, our influence, our intellect, our knowledge, our health, our strength, our time, our affections and our privileges.*
  - d. The point of this story is that waiting for Christ's return, and being ready for it, are not passive matters, they require activity now, in the present.
3. **Matthew 25:20**    *“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.”*
  - a. It's clear that though this man was given one bag with 5 talents, he returned with two bags and a total of 10 talents. He's bubbling over, he's got a sparkle in his eye, and he's excited to share with the master about what he's done.
  - b. Those that have used the material resources, time and abilities that God has given them, not just a 10<sup>th</sup> of them, but all of it, can expect commendation from God when He appears. There can be confidence, joy and excitement about appearing before Him.
4. **Matthew 25:21**    *“His lord said to him, well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”*
  - a. It's not just the servant who's excited, it's also the master.
  - b. It's also clear that there is great joy in doing the will of God. Is it hard? YEP! Is it trying? YEP! Does it cost you the loss of some things? YEP! But is there joy in doing the will of God? YES, there is great joy in hearing, *“...well done, good and faithful servant.”*
5. **Matthew 25:22-23**    *“He also who had received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them. His lord said to him, well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*
  - a. From the story of the 5-talent guy, and the 2-talent guy we see that the master doesn't treat them differently, or reward them differently, but rather, he honors them both for using what God HAD GIVEN THEM.
6. **Matthew 25:24-25**    *“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.”*

- a. This servant hated his master. He said things about him that simply weren't true. This was common in ancient religious thought, but it's also present among the Church today. Misconceptions about God, misconceptions about His character, misconceptions about His nature, about His beauty and about His glory run wild through the Church.
  - b. The master wasn't unkind, mean or hard, he was generous, giving us of his own resources.
7. **Matthew 25:26-27** *But his Lord answered and said to him, you wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.”*
- a. It's interesting that it's said, even though this servant didn't care for his master, he was still his lord. This is also true of every person. Jesus is Lord of our lives, either in this age by choice, or in the age to come by force.
  - b. The master didn't agree or disagree with the servant's assumption about his character, he simply stated, “*your disobedient either way, because if that's really what you thought about me, then you should've worked even harder, knowing that when I came back you would give an account to me, but you didn't do either.*”
8. **Matthew 25:30**    *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- a. Our no response to Jesus is a response to Jesus. To simply meet Him on that day, having done nothing with what He gave you, or only a portion of it, will be to say to Him, “*I want no part in you, I chose to go a different direction, here's back what you gave me, just as I received it.*”

### III. 4 LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS PARABLE

A. (1) We possess, but God owns.

- 1. What you have doesn't belong to you, it belongs to God. As stewards and overseers, what we have is actually God's property. God in His good nature gives us to great riches, wealth, resources, talent and wisdom and His expectation is that you're going to put it to work on His behalf.
- 2. Jesus isn't HOPING that you're going to do this, HE'S EXPECTATING THAT YOU DO IT.

B. (2) There's a coming day of judgment/reckoning.

- 1. It's common that most people don't want to think about death, and if they do, the assumption is that it will be a continuation of this current life, maybe even something more improved. But most people aren't thinking about the fact that the afterlife could be way worse than this life.
- 2. In this world, all sins aren't judged, as well as many good deeds aren't rewarded here in this world. Many things are vindicated in this age, but many things will be vindicated in the age to come.
- 3. But rest assured that this day is coming, a day when ALL the wrong things will be made right.
- 4. There's out ahead of us, a day of reckoning, where Jesus will call us into the office asking to see how we have doubled what He gave to us.

- a. **1<sup>st</sup> John 4:17; 2:28**
- C. (3) Our judgment will be based upon our use or misuse of what God has given to us.
  - 1. For many of us we assume that salvation is by grace alone, through faith, in Christ alone as if that doesn't include showing our faith by the way that live our lives, by the works that we do.
    - a. **James 2:14-17**
  - 2. (1) For the virgins it's a faith that's watching, waiting and actively pursuing Jesus (2) For the 3 servants, it's faith goes to work using what God has given them to invest and bring a return  
(3) And for the sheep and the goats, it's faith that actively cares for the overlooked
  - 3. Works are to follow a life of faith, a life of service, using the gifts and talents that God has given to us to serve others. A justified life, a saved through faith in Christ, made just through Christ will be a life of works.
  - 4. It doesn't happen all at once, but this is the fruit of the new birth, this is the proof that God has captured your soul!
- D. (4) We are only called use what God has given US, not to others.
  - 1. There's a great warning for us in this parable that it's possible to try and do with your life, what God has only called others to do with their lives.
  - 2. It's easy for us to see 5 talent people, and try to be like them, to try and do what they are doing, but this isn't what God has given you. This means if you're a 1 talent person, you need to use it, and make a second talent besides it.
  - 3. The 1 talent person isn't being judged because they didn't turn it into 5 talents. They are being judged because they buried their talent in the ground. Remember, these are being given out based on each person ability.
  - 4. D. A. Carson rightly said, "*It's not enough for Jesus followers to hang in there and wait for the end. They must see themselves for what they are--servants who owe it to their master to improve what he entrusts to them. Failure to do so proves they cannot really be valued disciples at all.*"
  - 5. These talents are given out based on our ability. We aren't all knowing, we aren't all seeing, we aren't powerful. We don't know if people are using their talents for Him or burying them in the ground. That's something we have to answer individually. It's something that we need to ask the Spirit often. Search me. Talk to me. Tell me about the way I'm spending my money, serving my family, using my gifts.

#### **IV. WAYS TO SERVE AT LEGACY CHURCH**

- A. Here at Legacy Church our desire would be to see that every member and faithful attender get involved in serving in some capacity. The areas on Sunday would include facilities, children's, worship, ushers and greeters, meet the team, belong and our forthcoming classes.
  - 1. If there's a place you desire to serve and don't see it listed, let us know. Talk to Pastor Caleb, myself, send us an email, a Facebook Message.
- B. When Legacy Groups launch on November 28<sup>th</sup>, our hope is every solitary person join a group and be apart of growing as a diverse family here at Legacy Church.

- C. For many followers of Jesus, and for many who simply attended Church, and have flirted with Christ over the years, have been around His family but never actually joined, were never baptized and became followers of Jesus, there will be a great surprise on that final day.
- D. You will not have the joy of the 5 talent, and the 2-talent person, you will be rudely shocked like the 1 talent person to find out that your casual, dismissed response to Jesus gift to you, will result in eternal separation from Him.
- E. To the 5 foolish virgins Jesus says, “...assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you (Matthew 25:12).” To the 1 talent person Jesus says, “...cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:30).” And to the goats, who didn’t express their faith in serving the overlooked, Jesus says, “...go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).”
- F. How can you have confidence that your serving Jesus?
  - 1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-4:8**—*Paul fought the good fight, he kept the faith, and he was confidant on this side of eternity that there was a crown laid up for him on the other side of eternity. He knew this because he was abiding in Christ, obeying Christ, and doing the will of God for his life. But this crown wasn’t laid up only for Paul, but also for all those who love Jesus’ appearing (this is me and you).*