

VOCATION: The Art of Work**The Art of Finishing**

Matthew 25:14-29

Important principles about work:

- God is a worker, and so are we.
- As we work, God partners with us.
- God calls us to specific work, in a particular place, for the ultimate purpose of Glorifying Himself and Serving Others.
- Work is difficult because of sin, and perseverance is necessary.

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31b

“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. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing the 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.’ 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. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Matthew 25:14-30**Main Idea:** The Art of Work Requires Finishing Well**I. God Has Given Us Talents to Use****“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10****II. God Has Given Us Opportunities to Embrace****“For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Romans 14:10b, 12****“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.” 2 Corinthians 5:10****“I want to do now what I’ll be glad I did then.” Pastor Johnny Hunt****III. God Has Given Us Seasons of Our Calling****“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1**

- **Season of Preparation:** School, Training, Residency, Internship, etc. (Common Lies: debauchery, selfishness, rebellion, laziness)
- **Season of Production:** Career, Harvesting, Busyness, In Demand (Common Lies: neglect family/church/health, vocational divide)
- **Season of Continuation:** Retirement, Returns, Obligation (Common Lies: Leisure Reigns, No Purpose, Nobody Wants You, Selfish Time)
- **Eternal Life:** Eternal city, work, worship (Common Lies: Harps, Clouds, White Robes, OR darkness, nothing, it’s all over)

“The seasons change and you change, but the Lord abides evermore the same, and the streams of his love are as deep, as broad and as full as ever.”**Charles Haddon Spurgeon****IV. God Has Given Us Clarity on What Matters Most****To the Faithful Steward:** “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.” **Matthew 25:23b****To the Unfaithful Steward:** “You wicked and slothful servant...cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **Matthew 25:26b, 30****Commit yourself** to finishing to the glory of God and in service to others! You are working for a GREAT GOD to whom you will give an account someday, when only two things will matter:

- 1) What did you do with Jesus?
- 2) What did you do with the Life God gave you?

That is the Art of Work!**Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)
- *Bible Knowledge Commentary* – J.F. Walvoord & R.B. Zook (1985)
- *Faithlife Study Bible* – J.D. Barry (2012)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *Every Good Endeavor* – Timothy Keller (2012)
- *Don’t Waste Your Life* – John Piper (2003)

