

MasterClass #12
A Well-Lived Life

Word

Scripture Reference

Matthew 25:14-30

Discussion Questions

1. What are the top two qualities you have that you can use to minister to others as your service to God?
2. How do you know at the end of your life if you have lived a good life? What marks a life that is well-lived? Read Matthew 25:14-30. What is this parable about (v. 14-18)? Who does the master represent? How about the servants? Why were the three servants not given equal talents (v. 15)?

Note: One talent is a measure of money or weight, which is equivalent to about P3.5M today. But for the purpose of understanding this story, talents may refer as abilities or resources.

You are responsible only for the ability and resources that God has given you. If that were the case, would God ask you to be accountable to the abilities that He didn't give you? Discuss the conflicts that could be avoided if you accept your abilities and resources as your God-given responsibilities.

3. The servants were expected to do something to earn money for the master while he is away. In this life, you are expected to be good stewards of what God has given you so that He will benefit from it. You may think it is unfair to work hard for somebody else, but in actuality no one among us own anything in this world. Everything given to us really belongs to God. It is foolish to think that you work hard just for yourself because when you

leave this world you don't bring anything with you. You can learn four principles from this parable:

- a. **Principle #1: The reward of a well-lived life comes after this life is over.** In this generation, people want instant gratification. But reality is that if you don't work hard and persevere, you can't expect to be rewarded. What happened when the master came back (v. 19)? How did the master commend the two servants for doing what they were supposed to do? What did the servants get in return? Everyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior will be in heaven, but would everyone receive the same rewards in heaven? Why or why not?
- b. **Principle #2: The criteria for a life well lived is faithfulness.** When God judges your life at the end of this life, He does not care about your resume; instead He cares about your faithfulness to Him. How are you investing your talent? Are you faithful to live a life of character and loyalty? Do you prefer to lose fairly or to win through dishonesty? Discuss how you can pursue excellence and remain faithful to the Lord.
- c. **Principle #3: The criticism of a life poorly lived is unfaithfulness (v. 24-27).** God gives us the privilege of serving Him so that He can bless us more, just like the first two servants. What was the excuse of the third servant who received one talent? What are the usual excuses of those who don't want to serve the Lord with their talents? If God doesn't need your money, time and resources, why does He ask you to use what you have for Him?
- d. **Principle #4: The consequences of a life of unfaithfulness is severe (v. 28:30).** Even if you have done your best to achieve something, but is unfaithful to God, your life will not matter much. If you don't trust the Lord as your Savior, the consequence is eternal damnation. If you, as a Christian, are not faithful to God, the consequence is the loss of eternal rewards. What sentence was handed down to the wicked and lazy servant? Share how you would rate yourself in your Christian stewardship.

Walk

The faithful servants got in return the privilege of doing the responsibilities entrusted to them and entering the joy of the Lord. They both got to enjoy all the good things that the master prepared for them. On the other hand, the unfaithful servant got nothing, but severe consequences because of his attitude and action toward his master and the talent given to him. The world measures your worth based on your usefulness to the society or on your busyness, adventure and popularity. But God measures it on faithfulness. What is the measure of your life? How do you strive to be faithful to the Lord?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the lesson of how I could be a faithful steward of every talent and resources that You have entrusted to my care. I must admit that a lot of times, I tend to base my worth on how the world measures it. Please forgive me and help me to gauge it based on faithfulness that you expect from me. I pray that at the end of the day, You will find me good and faithful. Thank you that the rewards to your faithful servants are eternal that nothing in this world can ever match. In Jesus' name. Amen.