

Well Done!

Just for fun...

Without fail, my 4-year-old granddaughter would always say grace before she ate. I questioned her on the one occasion she forgot. After a brief silence, she said, "I wanted to taste it first so I could tell God how good it was."

Review:

The Joy of Serving... Serving fulfills God's purpose for you; Serving reflects God's glory; Serving contributes to eternity. Greatness in God's kingdom is to be a servant.

☞ **Today... Matthew 25:14-30**

v. 21... 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...'

The first thing to note is that the king will return (v. 19). The timing is uncertain, although we have identified signs of the times. The return of the king will bring judgment and eternal consequences. His judgment will include how we have used all that he has given us.

☞ **What are the "talents" God has given us?** Our **skills** and **abilities**. Our time. Our material and financial **resources**. Our relationships. In short, our very **lives!!!**

Some feel that since they only have one gift, it isn't much—so they do nothing. That was the problem with the unfaithful servant. What you must realize is that each gift is precious because it is God's. It helps to remember that everything we have, including our talents, comes from God.

When God asked Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go, Moses used a number of phrases to complain about what he did not have: "Who am I that I should go? Suppose they do not believe me? I have never been eloquent." After listening to Moses' complaints, God said to him: "What is that in your hand?" In essence, God was saying: "Moses, I am not interested in what you don't have; I am only interested in what you do have. Reach out your hand and certainly I will be with you."

☞ **Use what you have for God!**

There are some observations right away. First, it will help us to keep in mind that what we have is not ours. Also, we must invest and use the things we have been given. And, remember, that there will be a day of accountability.

Verse 21...

1. ☞ **Well Done** Are you planning to hear those words?

These two faithful servants received: Affirmation, Promotion, and Celebration.
Affirmation: "Great job! Well done. I appreciate your good work and your faithfulness."
Promotion: "Since you've done so well with what I've given you, I'm going to give you even more responsibility and opportunity for growth."
Celebration: "You've made me very happy. Let's celebrate together!"

☞ *There's a Danish proverb that says, "What you are is God's gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God."*

John 17:4 (Jesus desired to do God's work)
I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (Paul did too)
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness...

The words we all want to hear... Well Done!

2. ☞ **Good** = admirable; **excellent**; distinguished; upright; **useful**

God wants us to do good things...

Ephesians 2:10
we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God didn't create us to be self-indulgent and self-focused. He created us to do good.

Titus 2:14
☞ to purify for himself a people that are his very own, **eager to do what is good**.

1 Thessalonians 4:1
Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

--Johann Richter... Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good. Try to use ordinary situations.

--Lord Chesterfield... Aim at perfection in everything, though in most things it is unattainable; however, those who aim at it, and persevere, will come much nearer to it than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable.

--ET... Be good.

3. ☞ **Faithful** = **trustworthy; dependable**; reliable

--Bill Gothard... *Dependability: fulfilling what I agreed to do even though it requires unexpected sacrifices.*

☞ **Keep your promises!** Do what you say you will do!

--James Howell... *An acre of performance is worth the whole world of promise.*

God makes some great promises, and he keeps every one of them. So should we.

Revelation 2:10

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Be faithful! Do something for God; do it well; finish what you start!

It is better to wear out than to rust out.

4. ☞ **Servant** = slave; one who gives himself up entirely to another's will

...the term doulos focuses attention primarily upon belonging to Christ or to God. There are probably also important positive overtones, since in some languages of the ancient Middle East a phrase meaning 'slave of the king' or 'servant of the king' had become the title of an important person in the government.

A servant in God's kingdom is an important person. You're a representative of the King! You're not just a believer, but a God-servant. This involves one of my predominant

☞ subjects: **Surrender**

Luke 9:23-24

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Philippians 2:5-8

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!

John 13:14-15

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one ☞ another's feet. **15 I have set you an example** that you should do as I have done for you

It is quite clear that God has given each of us different things to do. God will not ask whether we did as much as the person sitting next to us, only what we did with what He entrusted to us.

It's not a shame having just one talent -- the shame is not using it.

I mentioned this last week: It's a common saying that within the church 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Are you one of the 20%? Will you help that to become 30, 40 or more? What would the church be like if everybody served as much or as little as you?

That's Not My Job! This is a story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

We are pardoned from sin, but we are not excused from serving.

Not where we serve, but whether we serve is most important.

What are you going to do with what God has given you? Are you going to settle for the status quo, or are you going to multiply your gifts so that they affect all eternity?

It was DL Moody who said, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do."

☞ **Benefits of serving: Spiritual growth; Rewards;** This verse!

☞ **... 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things...'**

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. It's so true! When you help someone else, you feel good about yourself.

Be a Good; Faithful; Servant!