

Serve One Serve All

/Craig Rees



Matthew 25:14-30

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‘And As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”’

Matthew 24:3



‘After a long time the master of those servants returned
and settled accounts with them.’

Matthew 25:19



‘And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.’

Matthew 24:14



It is not enough to have a vision of the future that sees Jesus returning in all his glory. To have that vision demands we work hard for it by taking the Gospel to the world.



“Vision is not enough. It must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps; we must also step up the stairs.”

Vaclav Havel



#1: Maintain the right perspective.



‘Lord, I knew you to be hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’

Matthew 25:24



“The explicit problem with the wicked servant is his attitude about his master. This is the way many people deal with God. Their wrong attitude about God (God is mean, God is unconcerned with our fate, etc.) results in an excuse for disobedience to his calling. It can also be applied by Christians who develop wrong attitudes about God. They see God as unloving because of their circumstances, and they then depart from the path of obedience.”

M.J. Wilkins



Reasons why a person doesn't maintain the right perspective:

- Low curiosity
- Limited global experience
- Like what we've got
- Don't think long-term
- Unaware of our own cultural biases
- Localized expertise
- Spend too much time with like-minded people



Don't sit on the side-lines: ask questions, extend your horizons, broaden your relationships, deepen your appreciation for the world, and step beyond your borders. It is never too late to step out.



#2: Keep going 'til the end.



The end of the parable, the servant being thrown out, shows just what Jesus thinks of people not using what they've been given. That's a shocking end designed to help us see that claiming to love Master Jesus and not serving Him means that we do not love him at all.



Why we don't have an action orientation:

- We are burned out
- We procrastinate (hesitate, reluctant to decide)
- We are not motivated, bored
- We lack self-confidence
- We are perfectionists
- We've failed
- We let the professionals do it



According to Jesus recognizing the lack of service, thinking about it, and analyzing it are all important but **it is serving Him that counts**. Unless we are burned out, we do something. Jesus never envisioned a “come and see” movement but a “go and do” movement. To be a Christian is to be someone who orients yourself towards service. The greater risk for a Christ-follower is what will happen if we DO NOT do something.
Until Jesus returns, we serve.



God does not expect us to go beyond our capacity for risk. Some have a five-talent capacity, some a two-talent capacity, and others a one-talent capacity. If doing nothing is faithless, going beyond our capacity is folly.



