

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD

PART 1: MOTIVATED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Matthew 25:14-30

What hinders me from making a difference?

- I feel _____
- I don't _____
- I get _____

5 foundational truths about investing my life

1. The premise of ALLOCATION:

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability.” (v. 14-15)

“We each have been given different gifts, according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:6

2. The principle of UTILIZATION:

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.” (v. 19)

Someday God will ask me: What did you _____ with what you were _____?

3. The principle of MULTIPLICATION:

“The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.” (v. 16-17)

“But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.” (v. 18)

4. The problem of MOTIVATION:

“I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.” (v. 25)

Three kinds of fear:

- Self- _____
- Self- _____
- Self- _____

The master's reaction: *“...wicked, lazy servant...”* (v. 26-27)

“Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.” (v. 28)

5. The promise of COMPENSATION:

“His Master replied, ‘Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things-- I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!’” (v. 23)

DAILY MEDITATIONS

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week's message

This week's memory verse:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt. 6:19-21

Monday

Write down one time recently when you know that your actions made a difference (for good!) in someone else's life.

Honestly look at your life and how you spend your time. In what ways do you seek to make a difference?

Read Matthew 25:14-30. What are two key truths that stand out to you in this passage? Why?

Thank God today that your life has meaning and purpose. Thank Him for the opportunity to be used to make a difference. Pray that you'll have eyes to see the opportunities He provides you with today.

Tuesday

Read Romans 12:1-6. What do you learn in these verses about the fact that God has given you specific gifts/talents? What hinders you from believing that God would give you talents?

What gift do you believe God has given you? How have you seen evidence of that gift in your life?

In what ways do you dream about using your gifts for God?

Thank God today that He has given you a gift with you in mind. Talk to Him about your dreams to use that gift. Pray that you'll daily put that gift to use to build others up.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 14:13-21; 25:16-18 & Galatians 6:9-10. What principles of multiplication do you find in these verses?

According to these verses what role do you have in the multiplication process? What role does God have?

How do these verses motivate you to put your gifts to work?

Thank God today that He multiplies your efforts. Pray that you'll be faithful to offer your gifts up to Him for His use and multiplication.

Thursday

Read Matt. 25:26-28. Which of the three kinds of fear (doubt, pity or self-consciousness) most often robs you of motivation to use your gifts?

How does God's motivation differ from the world's? How can allowing God to motivate you impact your boldness to use your gifts?

Think about your life right now. In what way are you burying your talent? What have you learned this week to help motivate you to dig it up and invest it?

Thank God today that He wants to motivate you. Thank Him for understanding you. Ask Him to give you the courage to dig up your buried talents and offer them to Him.

Friday

Read Isaiah 49:3-5, Matt. 6:19-21; 25:23 & Eph. 6:7-8. How does knowing God will reward you help you?

What do you learn in these verses about God's rewards? How does that impact your desire to make a difference?

Thank God today for the rewards that you have experienced already and those yet to come. Pray that you'll be motivated to use your talents by the promise of eternal value.

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray for services this weekend, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way.