

Bucket Talk – Response Ability

Bible Verses

Matthew 25:14-30 *The Parable of the Talents*

2 Corinthians 10:12 " *We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise*".

What do we do with what we have been given?

As you looked at the title of this weeks "Bucket Talk", I'm sure many of you thought "hey..Bob misspelled the word Responsibility... It's ONE word, not two". And you would be correct in your thinking, however it's just a little play on words that I have borrowed from Andy Stanley to emphasize the fact that all of us have the responsibility to "respond to our ability".

The parable of the talents, which is found in the book of Matthew chapter 25 deals with the subject of money, however it has a much broader application as well. The master gave three different amounts of money to three of his servants, instructing each of them to invest it as they were able and according their his ability. The servant with the most invested his amount wisely and so did the second. Each one according to his ability. The second man's return was not as much as the first, but then he did not have as much to start with either. God commends the first two servants, telling them both that they have been faithful with what had been given them. But the third servant, the one with the smallest talent, did not use it and gave the master no return on His investment. His master called him "wicked and lazy". Obviously, God takes the business of being faithful with what you have been given very seriously!

The unfaithful servant made a tragic mistake...he made an excuse. It was "only one" talent he thought, and compared to the five talents or the two talents given to the other men, what use was his one? Why even try and compete? He let the fear of failing to live up to the standard of the other servants stop him from doing anything with his talent at all. He failed to put it to good use..he buried it away.

Many of the athletes that we have been given to coach make the same mistake. They feel inadequate in comparison to some of their teammates who may have been given more "talents" so they burry their own talent. They rationalize that there is no use in working harder, both on or off the field in an attempt to get better because they have not been given as much "talent" as some of their teammates. As you may have heard me say before, "comparison is the death of contentment". We need to encourage our ball players to stop comparing their gift with others and get on with using and developing the talent they've got. (2 Cor. 10:12).

Everyone is given a certain measure of "talent"...and it's not always fair. But we need to be faithful to God for what He has given to each of us by putting our talent to work. Regardless of HOW MUCH talent we have been given, we need to put our pride aside, admit that we may be a "one talent" player and glorify Him by putting our talent to the best use possible. Everyone is responsible...(able to respond)...for what they have.

To whom something is given, something is expected. And as it says in verse Matthew 25:29, "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him".



Matthew 25:14-30 (New International Version)

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹"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!'

²²"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³"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!'

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸" 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'