

# **What Do Christians Want To Hear?**

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# What Do Christians Want To Hear?

Inspired by Chuck Bentley of Money Life

That's a good question; what is it that you would like to hear from the mouth of God when you see Him for the first time face to face? We all need the affirmation of our Creator; wouldn't you like to hear "Well done My faithful servant?"

But you know He doesn't stop there He goes on and adds "thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21) He will acknowledge your faithful stewardship here on earth and give you more responsibility in heaven. That's right, heaven is not a retirement center for Christians it is a place of activity and that means that we will be doing all manner of service for our Father; we will continue to work for our Master, the Boss. So this life is like a job interview for an eternal job. If we pass, the Boss says "man have I got a job for you and it will last for ever; no more unemployment, no more surfing the web or scanning the newspaper want ads for a job."

So since we all would like to hear these words just what is it that we must do to get God to say them to us?

First of all the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 is not just about money. We need to take a look at just where in the Scriptures this is located: It is no accident that it is in the context of Matthew 24. Let's take it from the top: the disciples had just asked Jesus for the sign of the end of the age and His coming. (Matthew 24:3) And then He list all the signs starting with the destruction of Jerusalem all the way to His return but with a warning that no one, not even Him knows the day or hour of that return. (Vs.36)

Then He says in verses 45-47

<sup>Matthew 24:45</sup> Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

<sup>Vs. 46</sup> Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

<sup>Vs.47</sup> Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

You see He goes right into warning us about complacency and not following through to the end because he shows us in the next verses, 48-51 what will happen to the one that lives as though it didn't matter; and you know that He speaks out of experience with mankind.

Picture if you will when you were a young child and your mom and dad left the room. You thought that you didn't have to do what they said; because they weren't there you could get away with what ever you wanted to do. But God sees and knows all.

Are you going to stay on the job that God gave you while He is away? He will measure your performance compared with the resources that He gave you. That is what the parable of the talents is all about.

Right after verse 51 He starts chapter 25 with the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. But notice how He begins it with the word "Then shall . . ." He was not done speaking to the disciples about His coming.

Note: if you look up the word teach as it is used in the Book of Deuteronomy 4:9-10 where it talks about teaching God's law to our children it means to inculcate or to rub in by repetition. That is what Jesus is doing here by giving us many parables in succession on the same subject.

He finishes the parable of the virgins which is about being prepared for His coming; in verse 13 of chapter 25 and starts the parable of the talents in verse 14. Some translations add the word “Again, for the kingdom of God is . . .” because of the repetitive parables on the same subject.

Now notice as the parable progresses that God gives “to every man according to his several ability.” (Vs.15) God is fair; He is only going to give to you what you are capable of handling, not too much or not too little. **ACCEPT WHAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU.** Every body wants more, money, talent, opportunities and less responsibilities; be happy with what God has given you. You have to earn more and that will be luxury. Besides, He has given you all that is necessary for the course of life that you will follow; remember He knows just where you are going before you do. ( A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. Proverbs 16:9)

So according to the parable, two of the servants put the money, the talents, the abilities, the resources, to work for their master, the boss. They gained well for him and doubled his investment in them. **THAT IS WHAT THIS IS YOU KNOW, GOD HAS INVESTED IN US AND HE EXPECTS A RETURN.** One servant hid his only resource and gained nothing, he hoarded it selfishly.

What does God say at the end of the chapter about all of this? All people will be gathered together as a shepherd gathers his flocks and separates them the sheep from the goats (Vs. 31-33). The servant who hoarded his resource is classified as a goat; no one is excused here.

He only had one resource but the widow of Mark 12 and Luke 21 only had two mites to put into the plate. That is about 1/64 of a day’s wage. She invested her all and is written about in two books of the Holy Scriptures. What do you think God will say to her when He returns?

After the separation God will say to the sheep:

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

And here’s why:

Vs. 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Vs. 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

These are the ones that are important to God; they are on His heart. The sheep took care of these with the resources that God had entrusted, invested in them His faithful servants.

Who is going to be wise and faithful to take care of My household? God asks.

In God’s will Jesus inherits the people of the earth; so Jesus asks who is going to take care of My inheritance? He has called us and He has given us the necessary resources to take care of His inheritance, the people of the earth until He returns.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

So just what are the mechanics of this? How do we spend - invest God’s resources toward His Kingdom? First we must order our lives so that God is free to spend us. That

means to be free of this world and its purposes. “There is nothing on earth that I desire above you God.”

Next is be a leader: show others the way to live in God’s economy; not caught up living in man’s economy.

A good example here is Obadiah in 1 Kings 18 who was the head of King Ahab’s house (Vs.3) at the time Queen Jezebel had ordered the killing of all of God’s prophets. (Vs.4)

<sup>1Kings 18:3</sup> And Ahab called Obadiah, which *was* the governor of *his* house.

(Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:

<sup>Vs. 4</sup> For it was *so*, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

He had hid a hundred of God’s prophets; fifty in one cave and fifty in another and fed them. (Vs.4) He was fulfilling Matthew 24-25 by taking care of God’s people by hiding them and feeding them with bread and water at the right time and the risk of his own life. He did this all under a bad man’s economy, Ahab’s. But Obadiah was living out God’s economy.

Contrast this with the rich man and Lazarus of Luke 16:19-31. The rich man was into self consumption, hoarding. He only had one resource, money; and he squandered it on himself. If he had been a good steward he would have served Lazarus and then he would not have been in the predicament that he was in according to the parable.

In order to hear those wonderful words we must do what is necessary to make the resources God gave you available for His purposes and then use them for those purposes. You do this by shedding yourself of the love of this world. Remember our boss has the room and board covered so we can just go out and work without a worry in this world.

Also keep in mind that where your treasure is that is where your heart will be; your heart will follow your treasure so invest in the Kingdom with your resources.

And of course get to know the boss by studying His book that He wrote. All this is putting yourself in a position to be a great steward. That way God can fully spend you. Remember, what He spends He replaces many fold.

## Sources

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