**Truth Sowers Life Group**

October 7, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – Part Six**

**The Law of Use**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

14“For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. 18But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21His lord said to him, ‘Well *done,* good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23His lord said to him, ‘Well *done,* good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 24“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’ 26“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. 29‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Introduction:** From this passage of scriptures we have to wonder if the disciples had asked Jesus what the Kingdom of Heaven was like. How do things work in Heaven, once we leave the confines and restrictions of this earth? All of us have asked that question. Books have been written on the subject and movies have been produced about it. The thing that people have missed is what I am teaching in this lesson. The men that followed Christ missed what Jesus was telling them at first. The Kingdom of Heaven has laws and principles that will work here and now if we learn how to tap into the Kingdom. This is excellent news for us! You see, we don’t have to wait until we get to Heaven for these principles or laws to work. That is why Jesus spent so much of His time teaching parables to show us how to reach into the Kingdom of God to take what we need. Thank God, after the disciples were born again and received the filling of the Holy Spirit, they understood these principles and our world was forever changed by the seed that they continued to sow, spreading it throughout the earth. Once they began to operate in these spiritual gifts, they began to see miracles performed in their ministries and the New Testament Church was born and continues on to this day and beyond.

1. The Ruler spread his wealth out among his servants.
   1. What is a “Talent”.
   2. It was a measure for precious metals.
   3. It was about 75 pounds.
   4. It could also be 20 years worth of a person’s salary.
   5. Gold is currently about $1800 per ounce
   6. There are 15 troy ounces in on pound of gold.
   7. So, 15 x 75 = 1125 ounces of gold in a talent.
   8. $1800 x 1125 = $2,025,000 worth of gold in one talent.
   9. 5 talents would be worth $10,125,000
   10. 2 talents would be worth $4,050,000
2. We don’t know exactly what servant’s one and two did but they may have:
   1. Invested money in the stock market
   2. They may have bought goods and sold goods, making a profit.
   3. They may have hired people to manufacture goods.
   4. They may have manufactured goods themselves.
   5. Whatever they did, the made a profit with their master’s money.
3. The third servant buried the money he was given.
   1. Why did the third servant fail?
      1. He was wrong in his reasoning. He said, (v.24)“Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.”
         1. We see no reason for him to believe this. In fact, the master was very giving and reasonable. Look what he did with the other servants.
         2. People still view God, the Father, in this way.
         3. People even blame their faithlessness on God, not knowing just how much he really loves us and makes provision for us.
      2. He was operating in fear. “I was afraid” (v. 25)
         1. Fear is the opposite of faith and it will NOT please God.
         2. **Hebrews 11:6**

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

**Living this life actually becomes FUN when you realize that God is for you and that you have absolutely NOTHING to worry about because God is your Father and He will take care of you! Even when trials come your way you can look them in the eye and laugh!**

* + 1. He was self-justifying. (v.24)
       1. It is a natural thing for people to try and justify their sin.
    2. What the servant had was taken from him and given to the others.
    3. He was banished from his master forever after that.
    4. The other two servants were honored and one was given even more than they he to begin with.
    5. **PROPER USE** – allowed them to enter into the place of joy!
    6. They were made rulers over many things because of their faithfulness.

2. We must use what we have or we will lose it.

a. Muscles are a good example.

Illustration: If I tie my arm to my side and completely immobilize it for six months, the muscles will atrophy and I will not be able to use it. But if I begin to lift a small amount of weights each day and add to that amount occasionally, it will get easier and easier to lift more weight.

Compound interest is another example. Example of making one penny and then doubling it each day. At the end of one month, you will have more than one million dollars.

* 1. The same truth works with our Christian walk.
     1. We must grow in the Word and use the authority we have as a believer or our walk with the Lord will diminish.
  2. The same is true with musical talent.
     1. If you do not practice and work at your musical talent it will diminish.
        1. Look at Whitney Houston as an example.
           1. Drugs and alcohol became her focus instead of her voice and she lost the voice she once had.
  3. When you look at the opposite side, exponential growth can occur.
  4. Just like the penny being doubled each day, our gift and talent can grow.
  5. A brain surgeon doesn’t just begin operating on brains one day, he starts by learning simple things and then knowledge is added to that until he is able to operate on a brain.
  6. **Zech 4:10**

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin,,,*

* 1. When we talked about tithing, if you have never developed a lifestyle of giving, start now! God will honor your commitment.

1. Everything is Upside Down in God’s Kingdom compared to how thing operate on Earth.
   1. The Greatest Sin on Earth: **PRIDE** is completely opposite of the greatest virtue in God’s Kingdom: **HUMILITY.**
   2. When Christ came to earth, He humbled himself. He took on the form of a servant. He came to serve yet he is KING of the KINGDOM.
   3. Even though He is the **GREATEST**, He became the **LEAST**.
   4. At the last supper, he laid aside his cloak, took a towel, wrapped it around his waist and washed the disciple’s feet. This was the work of a slave.
   5. As a result He gave us a key to the kingdom. The Kingdom is one of **humility and service**. Not of self seeking, pride and getting the best of other people.
   6. **The Law of USE tells us that we will LOSE what we do not USE and what we do not USE will be taken from us and given to another.**
   7. **The Law of RECIPROCITY tells us that if we GIVE, it will be GIVEN back to us, good measure, pressed down and shaken together.**

**Conclusion**: Jesus made very clear to us, the Law of Use. To be great we must endeavor to be the least. In the military, the best General is the one who serves his troops. In Business, the best manager is one who serves his employees.

As you take the talents God has given you and begin to work to develop those talents, your abilities will grow on an exponential scale. If you don’t use those talents, you will lose them. The greatest people in all fields start small and through learning and developing what they have, end up being the greatest people in their field because of the Law of Use. Take what God has given you, don’t despise your day of small beginnings, and know that God will honor your hard work and your humility and your talents will grow exponentially.