

A Stop by Quiet Waters

By

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Your Ministry is Significant

Every once in a while I'll be reading something, or will have a particular experience which brings a truth to mind, and say to myself, "I would love to share that with the pastors," but rarely ever do. This happened recently as I was reading Luke 19:11-27, the parable of the ten minas. Here are a few truths I saw which I pray you will find encouraging and helpful. If you feel as though you would like to give feedback, by all means, please do so @ pastordick@barnabasministriesinc.org.

First – His Design:

The parable makes it clear that God gives us what we have to work with. Our makeup is ultimately not a matter of luck, genetics, DNA, or any such thing, it is the result of the hand of God on us for His purposes and our good. (Someday I'll share what God taught me about my life being radically altered by the polio I had as a young teen.) The skills and gifts we have are His choice for us and are all we have because they fit the work He has planned for us to do.

Second - His Plan:

God does not expect you to do the same things with what He has given you as He expects another to do who has much more than you have. This is true whether it is material resources, life skills and experiences, or spiritual gifts. God does not compare us to one another, we are the ones who do that, and the result is either pride and arrogance or self pity and resentment, or worse.

Third – His Love:

God does not love the other person(s), who has "more" than you, more than He loves you. Nor does He consider the other person more significant than you. (remember the value of the one lost sheep – lost coin?) His creation of each of us to be who we are is not due to a matter of degrees of love or value on His part. It is due to His wise purposes in building His Kingdom and giving each of us a role and place in it. He knows what He is doing. Our part is to trust and obey.

Fourth – His Pleasure:

God is greatly/deeply/fully pleased with you in your faithfulness to Him with what you have as you use it to the fullest of your ability in living for and serving Him. For example, if your location, resources, education, skills, giftedness, etc., allows you to only build and pastor a small congregation, but you put your all into it, God is as pleased with you as He is with the person whose circumstances, etc., allow Him to build and pastor a mega-church.

Fifth – Your Faithfulness

God is looking for the qualities of faithfulness and hard work on your part, not equal consequences of numbers, finances, etc., as another(s). Do what you can do, whether little or much, for Him, not for yourself and your reputation. Listen to Paul in Ephesians 6:7-8: *“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free”*.^{NIV}

Sixth – His Blessings:

Friend, if you are faithful to the Lord in what He has called you to with what He has given you to work with, He promises you two things: He will increase what you have so you will have more for serving Him, and, He will be pleased with you and what you have done for Him.

Let's really embrace the truth that God has only one body of Christ, that we are all co-laborers in it, and that we need each other. Let's resist judging ourselves and one another on the basis of the size of our ministries, etc., and begin to lift each other up, encourage, affirm, support, defend, and minister to each other. This is what Jesus prayed for in John 17:22-23: *“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*^{NIV}

I pray this will bring you encouragement and a light heart today.

Scripture Resources

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:8-19 NIV

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.” Ephesians 6:7-8 NIV

“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”
Matthew 18:12-14 NIV

“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. Then he went on his journey.” Matthew 25:14-15 NIV

“And these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.” 1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 139:14-16 NIV

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 NIV

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Colossians 3:23 NIV

“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!’” Matthew 25:21

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
John 17:22-23 NIV