

LIVE A FULFILLED LIFE

MARCH 21, 2021

WORSHIP

Majestic, Yet Not I
But Through Christ
in Me, More like
Jesus

WELCOME

What would you
say is the biggest
fulfillment you have
experienced so far
in life?

WORD

MATTHEW 25:14-18

¹⁴ “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way the one who had received the two talents earned two more. ¹⁸ But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

We are starting off a new series called NO REGRETS: RADICAL MINDSET, FULFILLED LIFE! Now you might have experienced regrets or disappointments which come in many forms; yet it’s possible to live with purpose, meaning, joy, and without regrets.

To live a life of no regrets, begin with the end in view. Start with the endpoint in mind. Think of what you would like to happen and work backwards. That is exactly what Jesus did with His disciples. He wanted them to be prepared for what’s coming. In **Matthew 25**, Jesus shared with them what is exactly going to happen in the future. The context of Matthew 25 is about Jesus coming again. The phrase “be alert” is used three times in Matthew 24 and 25. You do not know how much time you have left in this world or how long you will live. Sooner or later, we will see the Lord face to face. Are you ready?

Using the parable of a man who summons his three slaves or “managers” to entrust his possessions to before his journey, Jesus illustrates to the disciples how to live a life with no regrets. To avoid regrets, remember the **4Rs**:

ROLE - LIVE A DEVOTED LIFE

A role is an expected behavior for an individual by virtue of his social standing or position. In the parable, Jesus tells us clearly what is our role. First thing you need to understand though is that you are not the owner; you are the manager (slave). “**Entrusted his possessions to them**” (v.14) means we are to manage the owner’s possessions given to our care. **Psalm 50:10-12** says that God owns everything. God wants us believers to know that He owns us twice. God bought us when Jesus Christ died on the cross, He paid for our freedom with His life. We were enslaved in the sin market but He died for our sins. He paid the ultimate price (**1 Corinthians 6:20**). God owns us twice by virtue of **creation** and by virtue of **redemption**. God owns everything but He also bought us so He owns us twice. Once you understand your role, you learn to love your master who chose you. Be devoted to Him for it is love that will help you fulfill your role beyond what is expected.

RESPONSIBILITY - LIVE AN INTENTIONAL LIFE

It is one thing to know your role, you must also know your responsibility (vv.14-15). The word **entrust** implies you are responsible for something. The five talents, two talents, and one talent entrusted to the slaves was decided by the master based on their abilities as managers. A “talent” is a weight measurement of around 33 kilos. Whether in gold or silver, what was entrusted to the slaves was something very precious.

A steward or manager is one who administers that which belongs to someone else. Randy Alcorn has this to say: **“If God was the owner, I was the manager. I needed to adopt a steward’s mentality toward the assets He had entrusted - not given - to me. A steward manages assets for the owner’s benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It’s his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will.”** Our responsibility is to manage what God has entrusted to us for His glory.

A responsible person has to be intentional not accidental. You have to be intentional in finding out what the master wants. That is why we need to read the Bible. You should

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be in line with the purpose God has for your life and be careful not to invent your own purpose. The first two managers understood this responsibility. Immediately, they went to work (vv. 16-17) with eagerness. The last one hid the talent (v. 18) showing himself to be lazy and irresponsible.

So, what did God entrust to us? What are we responsible for? **Time. Talent. Treasure. Truth. Family. Influence. Opportunities.**

RECKONING - LIVE AN EXAMINED LIFE

The Bible tells us that there will be a day of reckoning (v. 19) when God will examine our lives. Paul taught in **2 Corinthians 5:9-10** that it should be our ambition in life to be pleasing to the Lord because there will be a day of reckoning. All of us believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (**Romans 14:10**). Each one will give an account for how we lived our lives (**Romans 14:12**). No one else can take this examination for you. Examine your life today in preparation for this final judgment.

Be like an airplane pilot who always checks the direction of his flight. For every 60 miles that you are 1 degree off your course, you are one mile off your destination. The further you travel with one degree off, the further you'll be away from your destination. Not many people learn about this principle, thus, they go through life in the wrong direction. Live as if it's the last day of your life. Plan long-term but live day by day.

REWARDS OR REGRETS - LIVE A DEPENDENT LIFE

Life is about choices. If you choose wisely, you have rewards. If you don't choose wisely, you have regrets. The Bible tells us that the one who received five talents came up with five more talents (v.20) and the one who received two talents also brought back two more talents (v. 22). The rewards for the faithful servants are (v.23): **COMMENDATION. 'Well done, good and faithful slave'; PROMOTION. '...You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;'; and JOY. '...enter into the joy of your master.'** As managers, we should be doing what we are supposed to be doing. What we do on earth impacts our eternity. The Bible tells us that our reward and destiny are amazing. The reward for faithfulness is authority over the nations (**Revelation 2:26**) and an amazing destiny awaits faithful servants (**Revelation 22:3-5**). We will serve the King of Kings and we will reign with Him forever and ever. To live a life with no regrets, we must see the big picture of what's going to happen in the end.

As for the third manager who received one talent (v.24-25), he got consequences: called out by the Master as a '**wicked, lazy slave**' (v.26) and lost what has been given him (v.28). He was not rewarded. His life ended in eternal regret in a place where there is **weeping and gnashing of teeth** (v.30). He did not do anything with what the Master had entrusted him. He did not care about the interest of the Master. He was his own boss and only cared about himself. This is a picture of someone who does not really know his Master.

In summary, the secret to a fulfilled life is to have **D.I.E.D. (Devoted, Intentional, Examined, Dependent)** to ourselves. When we do, we will be able to live life with Christ with no regrets (**Galatians 2:20**)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What are the things you find difficult to surrender to the Lord?

2. Setting It Right

How should we deal with our past mistakes?

3. Living It Out

What part of the message made the most impact on you? How will you apply it?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Ask the Lord to help people realize that we will all stand before God's judgment seat someday. Share the gospel that has been entrusted to you. Maximize your time, talent, treasure, family, influence, and opportunities for the priorities of Jesus, our Master.

WEEKLY

PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



¹⁰ ...For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14: 10, 12