

# CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS? Doing Money God's Way

## Part 5 – What are you doing with what you've got?

### THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS – MATTHEW 25:14-30

- \* Entrusted = To give over into one's power or use to KEEP, TAKE CARE OF, MANAGE.
  - \* How did the Master decide how to distribute his money? Each according to his ABILITY.
  - \* The Reality: We're all very DIFFERENT; not created EQUAL.
  - \* We're equally LOVED by God, but UNIQUELY gifted.
- *Why is life 'unfair'? How is life 'unfair'? In what sense are we all different? In what sense are we all the same?*
- *Does the Parable of the Talents apply to our financial stewardship, how we steward our gifts and 'talents' or both?*

#### **A. LITTLE with MUCH**

- \* This is the GIFTED, PRIVILEGED, EDUCATED person living a SELF-CENTRED life.
  - \* Inevitably leads to HEAVINESS of HEART (Luke 18:23).
  - \* There is no JOY or PEACE, no TREASURE in HEAVEN and nothing ultimately of CONSEQUENCE.
- *Describe the life, conduct & financial decisions of a person who is 'little with much.' What are the belief structures behind their behaviour? Where does 'little with much' lead?*

#### **B. MUCH with MUCH**

- \* High CALIBRE, high CAPACITY.
  - \* Does WONDERFUL things with their CONSIDERABLE potential.
  - \* They POUR OUT their life, not just to accumulate MONEY & POWER, but to spend it for the BENEFIT of OTHERS.
- *Describe the life, conduct & financial decisions of a person who is 'much with much.' What are the belief structures behind their behaviour? Where does 'much with much' lead?*
- *Who do you know who is/was 'much with much?' What is/was their legacy? Any other biblical examples (besides King David)?*

#### **C. LITTLE with LITTLE**

- \* The ONE TALENT guy, who BURIES the money, SQUANDERS the gift, WASTES the opportunity.
- \* It's okay to HAVE little, but it's not okay to DO little with your little.
- \* Danger: End up with a very SMALL, SELF-CONSUMED life.

- *Describe the life, conduct & financial decisions of a person who is 'little with little.' What are the belief structures behind their behaviour? Where does 'little with little' lead?*
- *Why/how do people end up stuck in a scarcity mentality? What are its dangers? How does it lead to 'little with little?' How do you escape from it?*

#### **D. MUCH with LITTLE**

- \* Giving is not about QUANTITY so much as QUALITY; not of WEALTH, but of WILLINGNESS (Luke 21:1-4).
- *Describe the life, conduct & financial decisions of a person who is 'much with little.' What are the belief structures behind their behaviour? Where does 'much with little' lead?*
- *Who do you know who is/was 'much with little?' What is/was their legacy? Any other biblical examples (besides the widow with her mites)?*

### TWO LESSONS

1. God is in the business of REDEEMING LITTLE with MUCH.
  - \* Redemption is about RESTORATION, REPARATION, REHABILITATION.
  - \* God wants to redeem that in us which is as yet UNREDEEMED (1 Peter 1:18-19).
  - \* With God, it is never TOO LATE: If you SURRENDER, He can REDEEM.
  - \* Give Him your HEART and God can do SO MUCH MORE with your MUCH than you can (or indeed your LITTLE).

→ *How do the stories of Zacchaeus meeting Jesus & Saul's transformation into Paul illustrate this first lesson?*

→ *What are the steps from 'little with much' to 'much with much?'*
2. God is in the business of producing MUCH with LITTLE.
  - \* e.g. Abraham, the Widow of Zarephath, the Young Boy at the Feeding of the 5000 & Gideon (Judges 6).
  - \* In his own eyes, Gideon was as LITTLE as they come.
  - \* YOUR little plus GOD'S much is MORE THAN ENOUGH.
  - \* Principle: When we let go of what's in YOUR HAND for God, however INSIGNIFICANT it may seem, God is able to open HIS HAND for us.
  - \* Flesh wants to CLING, a scarcity mentality to HOARD, but the Spirit of Faith SOWS (2 Corinthians 9:7-10, Ephesians 3:20).

→ *In the examples of Abraham, the Widow of Zarephath & the Young Boy at the Feeding of the 5000, what was required of them in their journey from little to much?*

→ *How does God turn your little into His much (2 Cor 9:6-11). What are the actions of the Spirit of Faith and how do they contrast with the impulses of flesh?*