



THE POWER OF c·h·a·n·g·e

THE POWER OF C-H-A-N-G-E PART E – EXERCISES SPIRITUAL GIFTS Matthew 25:14-30

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Matthew 10:39 “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Jesus)

The question most people have is: “What is this church going to do **for me**? This morning God is challenging us to change the question to, “What am I going to do **for God** and others through this church?”

I. A PARABLE ABOUT GIVING OURSELVES AWAY.

II. SIX PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING LIFE.

A. PRINCIPLE NO. 1 - GOD OWNS **EVERYTHING**.

Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...”

B. PRINCIPLE NO. 2 - GOD HAS GIVEN US SOME TALENTS TO BE **USED FOR HIM** AS A PART OF HIS PURPOSE FOR US.

Romans 12:6: “We have different gifts, according to the **grace** given us.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2: “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those **entrusted** with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a **trust** must prove faithful.”

The “trust” that God has given us is the gifts, the abilities, and the opportunities for your **life to count** for Him.

C. PRINCIPLE NO. 3 - ONE DAY GOD WILL AUDIT OUR LIVES AND MAKE US **ACCOUNTABLE**.(Matthew 25:19)

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

*God wants us to use our talents for Him and others. That is called **Ministry**.*

D. PRINCIPLE NO. 4 – IT IS WRONG FOR US TO **BURY** WHAT GOD GAVE US. (Matthew 25:26)

*Matthew 25:26 "His master replied, `You **wicked**, lazy servant.'"*

*I can't please God by playing it safe or playing it selfish in life. God has given me some spiritual gifts and talents. He wants me to **use them** for Him and others.*

E. PRINCIPAL NO. 5 - IF WE DON'T USE IT, WE'LL **LOSE** IT. (Matthew 25:28)

*God has the right to **take away** anything that we don't use for Him.*

F. PRINCIPLE NO. 6 - IF WE USE OUR TALENTS WISELY WE WILL BE **REWARDED**. (Matthew 25:23)

Matthew 25:23 "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!"

1. Greater **Trust**.
2. Greater **Enjoyment** with God.

*The happiest people in the world are those who are giving their lives for the **purpose** that God made them.*

3. The **ultimate** reward: God saying to you, " *Well done good and faithful servant!*"(Matthew 25:21)

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