

TALK TO THE OWNER
MATTHEW 25: 14-30

My brothers and sisters when you wanted a job or to buy something in the old days, you usually had to talk to the owner. He would interview you and ask your reason for wanting to work for his company and if you had any recommendations or good reports.

And when you wanted to buy something there was a person, who asked how you were going to pay, where you worked, how long you worked there, how much you made and what was your credit history, to see if you were able to complete your indebtedness.

Well in the lesson today the message "talk to the owner," is about the same situation. However the owner is Our God and Our Lord Jesus Christ and there are four topics here for discussion. They are

1. God is the owner.
2. God gives us the ability to produce wealth.
3. Generosity starts with a given or "self" spirit.
4. Servants must always give an account of their actions.

My brothers and sisters as you know God is the owner of everything and as we see in Genesis 2:15 -16, that after God had made Adam, that he placed him in the garden of Eden to work there and to care for it. God also told him that he could eat of every tree, but one, the tree of the knowledge of "good and evil." Are you with me on this?

We also see that specific instructions were given to the laborer, about what he could do, what his job was, along with the limitations placed upon him, if he went against the owners wishes. Do you hear me?

As you know my brothers and sisters there are many places in the Bible where God, declares that He remains the owner of all that he has created. "For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness there of." 1st Cori.10:26

What we have in our possession has been entrusted to us as stewards and custodians. All of our stewardship decisions must be made with this in mind; remember that God is the owner and we have to talk with him about our duties and his expectations of us as we move about on the job.

Because my brothers and sisters it is God who gives us the ability to produce wealth. Deut. 8:18, "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."

So when we experience prosperity, we can not take credit for it ourselves. Even the principle for freedom in "Giving" is an opportunity to experience prosperity made possible by the blessings of Our Father.

We have been told that God gives us the ability to make it, not only for our good, but for the good of others. We are to spread the wealth as it were, with the less fortunate, this is one of the missions of the Church, to do this work.

We must remember that God gives us the ability to produce wealth and when we do, we must do it for his good. Not for our good, but for his will to be done. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits"? Ps.116:12

So my brothers and sisters generosity starts with a given or "self" spirit. The Apostle Paul teaches us of this spirit in 2nd Corinthians 8:1-15.

The people of Macedonia are models of the "given spirit," because their generosity surprised others, it was a natural result of the fact that they had first given themselves, have you given yourself fully to God in every way.

Remember my brothers and sisters that these were some of the first Christians, the first to give themselves fully to Jesus Christ as believers and doers and then they had given themselves to the welfare of others.

In Paul's writings from Macedonia, he hoped that news of the generosity of these churches would encourage the Corinthian believers, motivate them to solve their problems and also to unite them in fellowship, with one another.

He had collected money for the poor in Jerusalem from them, even though they were poor, they had given more than

he expected, because of his teaching and their love for Jesus Christ.

My brothers and sisters what we see happening here is called, "Sacrificial" giving, because even though they were poor, themselves, they wanted to help the poorest feel the love of Jesus Christ in their lives by their giving, and they wanted to be good Christian examples. Do you hear me?

The point of giving is not so much the amount we give, but why and how we give. Remember that God does not want gifts given grudgingly. "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36

Remember that God loves a cheerful giver, so he wants us to give as those Christians did, with a cheerful heart, out of dedication to Jesus Christ with love for fellow believers, and the joy of helping those in need, as well as it is simply the good and righteous thing to do.

How well does your giving measure up to the Macedonian church? Are you in God's will in your giving? If Jesus Christ came tomorrow where would you be? You would not be arguing with the Lord, would you?

The church can only spread through believers concern and eagerness to support it. We as a church are only able to advance by not allowing ourselves to worry about the outcome. We must learn to leave it up to Jesus Christ and his promises' to us.

My brothers and sisters we must become cheerful givers in every way. I say talk to the owner about it.

"There is no man that hath left who shall not receive manifold more." Luke 18:29-30

Because we as servants must also give an accounting to the Lord in order to be paid, he therefore holds us responsible for our faithfulness in protecting and using his resources. He also expects each of us to give an accurate accounting of our failures as well as our faithfulness.

"You have been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Here in the text Jesus Christ uses a parable to tell us what the owner expects of the worker servants and when we read it completely, we see what two of them did with their talents. They increased them to the pleasure of the Lord, are we like them? OR! Are we like the third one, fearful of what the Lord will do, if we dare to use our wealth and lose it, that he will punish us for trying?

This servant misunderstood the LORD. He thought the LORD was too demanding. He feared loss while on this earth, that is why God condemned him. He was struck with fear from laziness, distrust and inconsistent behavior and unbelief. What about you?

My brothers and sisters because he failed to use his gift, he was stripped of what he had. Be careful that the owner will not pay you, because you did not finish the job.

The LORD is saying, until you learn to trust me all the way, you will not be blessed as you can be, when you trust me all the way.

GOD SAID, "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, HAVE NO OTHER GOD BEFORE ME." When you put yourself before the Lord in anyway, you lose. "Chose you this day who you will serve." Josiah 24:15

JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIGHT, NO MAN CAN GET TO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME." "Give unto Cesar those things due to Cesar and to God those things belonging to God." Jesus wants us to have a "given spirit" ministry.

AGAIN I SAY, TALK TO THE OWNER!!! IF THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS YOU THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH YOUR EFFORTS SO BE IT... **I believe that the owner wants more from you. Jesus is telling us that a closed mind led's to damnation because we reject the truth. The Kingdom of God rules over all things. Do what God requires of you and you will be rewarded on earth as well as in HEAVEN.**

Jesus Christ God said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End". There is no greater claim to power than this. If you accept these words than you must accept his authority in your life and keep his commandments.