

Resourcing the Households of Faith – Talents

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"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:21)

Discipleship Stories / Opening Prayer / Opening Conversation

- What is talent? Who does God give talent to?
- Where does talent come from? How is talent nurtured?
- Why is talent important? Does everyone have the same type of talent? Does everyone have the same amount of types of talent?
- What does God expect of everyone, no matter the types or amounts of talents He gives out?

Exodus Project – **Read Exodus 25:1-9** →

1. The Tabernacle – the mobile worship center of God's chosen people.
2. What talents are needed in this reading?
3. How were God's people supposed to know what to do?
4. Look at all the resources that God gave them for this project! What does God give you and His Church?
5. What if the people in Exodus would have taken these resources and used them for a different project or for personal home decorations... what do you think God would have thought or done?
6. How is the Church doing in using the talents God gives His Households of Faith?

Read, Reflect & Discuss: Matthew 25:14-30

1. I'm confused... What kind of talents are we talking about here? Money... or what?
2. What are the similarities between managing money and managing talents that God gives you? What are the differences?
3. What does resourcing & faith have to do with each other? What does Jesus say about the faithful servants? Why are they faithful?
4. What warning does Jesus give us in Verse 26? What's the issue?

So... what about you right now and the Church?

1. What talents has God given you?
2. Do you recognize where your talents come from?
3. Who is nurturing and growing you in these gifts?
4. How are you doing putting God's talents to work?
 - For God?
 - For your household/extended household members?
 - For God's Greater Household – His Church?
 - Are there talents you might be burying in the ground that are not serving your Master... Jesus?

The Lord said to Moses, ² "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ³ And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, ⁴ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, ⁵ tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, ⁶ oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁷ onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breast piece. ⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Exodus 25:1-9)

READ OUT LOUD: 1 Peter 1:4-11

- What does this text say to you? What does Verse 10 mean?
- If "steward" is another word for manager, explain the relationship between "Manager" and Owner"?
- How do we manage God's grace?
- What role do talents in God's resourcing plan play in managing God's grace?

Closing Prayer – Thank God for the talents He gives and nurtures in Resourcing your Household of Faith.

Thank you, Jesus for _____.
Amen!