

02092020Going Deeper! Going Deeper with Jesus is an ongoing intentional willingness to learn more about Him and go deeper in your trust and knowledge of His ways.... **week one...** God is ever present and will never leave us nor forsake us...he is deeply involved in your present life... and that means your intentional decisions in the NOW of your life have great influence in your destiny..... and **your past** links to your present...your now...however it is your intentional now that links to your future. **week 2) Going Deeper with Jesus requires Trust and Trust is another word for faith...and Faith is quantative...much faith, little faith, increase our faith...we have great promises but these promises usually do not include explanations for how they will unfold. When things do not unfold as we thought they would or should we are prompted us to ask questions. These Questions will make us think deeper about God and scripture...going deeper is valuable. It is part of the process of deepening our Faith and maturing our understanding of God.**

week 3...There is a common thread to Going deeper and that is the character trait of perseverance...to accomplish anything worthwhile... intentional sticktoitness is needed... We must learn to persevere the verb_per·se·vere *means* To persist in, or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

This week Going Deeper requires faith and Faith requires action... action is another word for work. Making good decisions requires action, trusting God's word requires action, and to persevere absolutely requires action or work.

James sums this up in his writing to the scattered Jewish Christians points to this theme over and over..

James 2: 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Hearing is not the same as doing....Believing is not the same as living you beliefs... **...Faith and action work together.. they reflect one another... the saying is true...actions speak louder than words...**your words whisper what you believe your actions shout what you believe.****

- you have been created to do things Just like our God works... it is part of the image of God we possess

Hebrews 1: ¹⁰ He also says to the Son, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands.”

Isaiah 64: ⁸And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

Jesus summed it up God’s work this way...

John 5: ¹⁷ But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.”

- All the saints recorded in scripture did works that added value to their Faith
- Jesus was a skilled carpenter Noah a skilled boat builder, David a skilled shepherd and a skilled musician, a skilled king, Paul a skilled tent maker , Abraham an explorer and adventurer and settled a land, Nehemiah a leader and builder, Debra a judge, there were farmers, leaders, homemakers, fisherman, skilled business people....all had faith and developed skills...

And you are created to add value to the kingdom of God on earth ...now.... to make a contribution to the world around you

*****Successful faith filled people embrace the challenge of doing life by faith...
If all of us would just take five minutes and think about their lives, could all come up with ways to improve their lives and reach another level of success, joy, happiness, achievement, contribution, fulfillment and purpose.

People who believe God wants them to increase...will take that faith...and add work to it! They say I want to do something of value but I don’t know how... but by faith and effort I will learn how to do that...

- Why is this important ? Because you are specially designed and gifted by God human being ...you are designed and gifted to add value In building His Kingdom...
- and Because As A child of God and a citizen of His Kingdom... You are a Future Ruler!! and will reign on earth!....Yes you!

Daniel 7: 18 But in the end, the **holy** people of the Most High will be given the kingdom, and they will rule forever and ever.

Rev 5:10 ¹⁰ And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.

Reign means to be in power, to rule... To possess means to have power over! So we will be in power and exert power/control over the earth as Kingdom leaders operating under the King!

- **So in order to do so effectively you must also grow in character...and skill set... Spiritual skills... people skills, business skills, and leadership skills!**
- **and God did not leave that up to us...He instilled in us talent and gifts....and through the inhabitation of His Spirit...the capacity to grow in character and gifting us spiritually...**

So let's see this play out in a second parable Jesus shares with his disciples as he leaves the Temple grounds two days before his arrest trial and crucifixion. He had been speaking of the future...His coming Kingdom and the importance of what his disciples do on earth until he returns...

First is spiritual.....He tells them the story of The parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) emphasizing staying spiritually *prepared and ready*. Keeping one's lamp filled with oil which represents staying close to Jesus and staying filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus concluded the parable by saying,

Matt 25: 13 “So you, too, **must keep watch!** For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

- **Keep watch means to pay attention and get prepared, it is now present tense now.... **Keep doing God's work!****
- **and Watching means properly using our minds ..God gave us marvelous minds to use —to study, learn, observe, analyze, judge , *think*. and *act!***
- **then in the second story he places great value on using and developing the talents we have on earth...**

Matthew 25: 14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.

His servants are his children and also his future leaders and managers...as we will reign with him on earth...so on earth we must develop skills!

- **the metaphor is ...Jesus has entrusted us with gold/talents/skills ... in preparing us for this responsibility and privilege... to rule over his possessions!! Now!**
- **And we are responsible to use and develop them adding greater value to what He has deposited in us**

¹⁵ *He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.*

Jesus gives gifts to his servants according to "present" ability...or skill..

*****Their Master expects them:**

- 1)To carry themselves as worthy representatives of the master (Character)
- 2) increase their capabilities use the wealth (competency)
- 3)and grow in their servant leadership (chemistry)!...

- **He expects his kids to show a profit or increase in with what they have been given responsibility over NOW!!....**
- **For example: If you have been given marriage is it increasing in value?**
- **if you have been given children ...are you adding value to their lives...in other words are they richer for havinr you as a parent?**
- **how about in Your career... does the work you do add value to this world? Is your character development increasing in value to this world..**
- **Is your spiritual development adding value to those in your world**
- **Is your earthly development adding value to to those in your world..**

¹⁶ *“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money. ¹⁹ “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.*

- **They are given a long time to grow and develop and invest their skills and for with the goal of expanding Kingdom value and influence**
- **God is gracious ...he gives us time to learn ...risk...fail...grow...**

- At the end of that time... two doubled their value...they gained... **Gained means increased by effort!**
- and **One hid the wealth** entrusted to him.....put away and did nothing with it!
- So they settled the accounts...with the master..

²⁰ *The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'* ²¹ *"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'*

²² *"The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.'*

²³ *"The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'*

The first two, demonstrated Faith and works... Though their capacities/abilities were not equal..they each produced an increase of twice what they were given... they double the value of what they were responsible for.. the master was pleased... or delighted in them!

- **The master's happiness was that they grew and prospered and added value...!!** Just like any parent delights in their child's growth and prosperity!
- they have now the capacity to handle much more...**Faith Effort and time...Produce**
- Then there is this one...

²⁴ *"Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate.* ²⁵ *I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'*

- **This servant's proclaims with certainty that He knows the heart of his master....** By calling his Master a harsh man...meaning he expects much but won't help you... unkind, unsympathetic, mean
- and also greedy, harvesting what he did not plant...in other words living off the labor of others, taking advantage of them...

- **But in reality he was a liar...** if he really feared what would happen to him when the cruel vindictive master came back... **he would have made an even greater effort than the other two...to increase it..**
- But instead His fear of losing what little he had...showed what he thought of his own ability...the best he could do with a coin was bury it...which is always the problem with people governed by fear....doing what they already possess...
- People of Faith believe God will help them to overcome, develop expand their abilities... and prosper..
- His fear led him to decide to bury what he had been given...so as to lose money...his fear came upon him..... to do nothing with it! added no value...and actually lost value...
- he returned what he received but it was of less value...

²⁶ “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

- His master called him on his faulty reasoning...you are wicked and lazy
- **WICKED** means attributing evil intent and character to someone wrongly... his master was good and wanted his servants to do well he was for them...the exact opposite of what this servant attributed to him.
- **LAZY** means slothful ...making others responsible for his inaction...and failure
- for if he truly believed what he said about his Master ...he would have acted in a way to at least earn interest..which would have required nothing from him but to deposit the money ...he was even too lazy in his thinking to do that...
- The truth was he was wicked...evil in his assessment of the Master and completely wrong in his response to that assessment...to do nothing...
- And in reality he was lazy... He would not put in the effort to develop what he was given making what was deposited of greater value!..
- The master expected him to produce...it was a given ...

*****His failure was more than just that...he did not believe what his master said...that he was coming back.... 1)So He believed he would not be held accountable** for doing anything with what was entrusted to him....so why risk anything..so bury what was entrusted to you...and do whatever it is you do...

2) Excuses are valid.. That his blaming the master/ or someone else or something else for not doing anything with what he was given, would be an acceptable excuse to his master. he deceived himself..

3) He thought he would still be rewarded... he lost his position of being a servant...

So The Master's response:

Matt 25:28 "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

This actually was an opportunity... The more developed a man's virtues and other gifts and talents, the greater his value to his neighbors and the kingdom...which BRINGS HIM OR HER greater ABUNDANCE,,

- **The crosses one carries in life, one's difficult times and decisions, is also used to develop a talent to use, multiply and increase. Increase the talents given you by God.**

³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Use less servant...the servant was given the result his actions deserved to be used less... A SERVANT AND THROWN OUTSIDE WHERE HE IS DEPRIVED OF THAT WHICH HE WAS GIVEN to him to build

- **the liar and wicked and complaining servant went with the other liar and wicked and complaining servant ...the bitter and nash their teeth together...**
- **apparently he is still his servant yet remaining in darkness**

What can we learn here about this Faith without works person's actions, so we don't fall into the same trap:

- **1) The Responsibility of developing your talent is more important than you might believe. As noble as our intentions might be ...intentions are definitely not enough... We are responsible to use and develop what God has entrusted to each one of us...**

- **2. Fear keeps you Stuck...** Three servants given responsibility...two grew, one was stuck in Fear... When people are no longer developing, they start to quarrel and complain and make excuses for their failures. Fear Blames!
- **3) Beware of Misguided Arrogance** ...The worth-less servant confidently believed and acted upon his own misguided preconceived beliefs. And trusted them more than his Master's direction. He knew his master would expect increase and did nothing about it.
- **5) He rationalized his behavior...** He rationalized or convincingly lied to himself about his behavior, and also believed he could minimize any accountability to his master....He was wrong!

Conclusion a Successful servant believes and acts... they take ownership of their Responsibilities, of character, competency and chemistry as one who serves a master and has a destiny !

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