

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Parables-Stewardship-Talents: The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Rev Adrian Ng

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- **In this parable**, the master entrusted different number of talents to three different servants according to their ability. A talent is the largest unit currency in first-century Roman world amounting to approximately twenty years of income at minimum wage. The first and second servants made a 100% gain with five and two talents respectively, while the third servant did nothing with his one talent as he did not care about the master nor the master's instruction.
- **God is the Owner & Giver of all talents**, be it possessions, abilities, opportunities, time, energy, circumstances, etc. We do not own anything. Each one is entrusted with at least one talent – according to each of our ability – to make this talent(s) work for our Master and King's Kingdom business, not ours! These talents are entrustments because our Master trusts us, His servants, to steward His possessions and resources on His behalf to do His will and purposes.

As Jesus' faithful servants, we respond in gratitude for who Jesus is to us personally and for what Jesus has done – giving of Himself so that we may have a personal relationship with Father God for eternity (our identity and significance) and enjoy the security and contentment of His care, love and protection. **And out of our love for Jesus, our King, we steward His entrustments to us in complete & willing obedience to Him** wherever we are – in our family, workplace, church, society, nation and other nations. Otherwise, we will be faithfully fulfilling *our own* agenda *our* way in *our* time being *our own* master.

- **God is the Judge and we will all be held accountable when Jesus returns**. The reward of faithful stewardship is receiving our Master and King's commendation, promotion and celebration – which is a demonstration of His trust and delight in us! Jesus is our Reward indeed! Poor stewardship, on the other hand, leads to loss, darkness and being apart from Jesus for all eternity.
- **Our choice today as a disciple of Jesus and as a church in TPMC** – Will we renew our covenant with the Lord by declaring that Jesus is our King, that we will fear Him, and thus steward all the talents He has entrusted to us individually as well as a local church out of our gratitude to Him and our love for Him? This renewal of our covenant with the Lord will be evidenced by our joyful, willing and total obedience to His will and bidding. When we live like this over time, we become Jesus' faithful stewards, and we will be prepared for Christ's return and the final judgment when we give an account for our stewardship.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. If you receive cash amounting to twenty times your income, what would you do with it?

REFLECT

2. Imagine everyone in TPMC live our lives like the first two servants in the Matthew 25:14-30, faithfully stewarding the talents entrusted to them. Describe what we as disciples @ TPMC will look like based on the appended Scripture Texts.

[Verses to help us go deeper: Luke 1:37-38; Mark 12:42-44; John 6:1-13.]

RESPOND

3. List all the talents that the Lord God, your Master and King have entrusted to you. What & how has the Lord instructed you to do with this entrustment of talents? Share with your CG your stewardship journey and how prepared you are today for Jesus' return & judgment.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God for His grace in *receiving* us as His dearly beloved children through Jesus' sacrificial death and *trusting* us to be His stewards here on earth.
- Pray that everyone in TPMC will choose to steward our God-given talents/entrustments in our family, workplaces, schools, neighbourhood, nation and other nations individually and as a church together *as God directs* – so that Jesus will shine through us, TPMC, Toa Payoh and beyond!
- Believe and declare that as everyone in TPMC aligns to Jesus, our King, TPMC will not have any lack in people serving, in financial giving, in outreach, and in impacting our society, our nation, Singapore and nations beyond Singapore!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done." [Revelation 20:12, ESV]

UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

Refer to TPMC's website, Sunday Bulletin, or last week's ACTNow for the details regarding:

- Donation to Project Tribute
- S.H.A.P.E. Course
- Step Up Course
- Step Up Retreat