

“Built Together Part 10 - Time and Talent” (11-5-23)

Series Review: Living in Community - Worship, Connected, Joy, Healing, rooted in Love

Key Verse: Eph. 2:22 - “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

New Section: Built up by the Spirit (God-given gifts and abilities are used in love to build up His Church)

Review: Last 3 weeks - Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12 & 1st Corinthians 12 & 14) /

Coming soon . . . Ephesians 4: January - 5 roles of leadership, growing in maturity

Next Few weeks: Time, Talent, & Treasure, then after Thanksgiving - Advent Series

Today: Stewarding our Time & Talent

Matthew 25:14-15 (ESV)

(14) “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property
(15) To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Note: The 5 used them & doubled (same with the 2), but the 1 hid it & saved it, but did nothing with it.

Matthew 25:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. (20) And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ (21) 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.’

Note: Some principals of **Stewardship** . . .

- It isn’t being careful & miserly; it’s faithfully using what we have been given & seeing it multiply!
- They were given different amounts - not judged differently, but judged by how they used it!
- The one judged harshly was due to the fact he didn’t use what he was given - had no kingdom impact!

Consider Talent:

- **Identify your Talents**
 - Natural Ability (Remember: Ephesians 2:10 – you are uniquely made!)
 - Acquired Skills (Exodus 31:3-5 as an example – skilled craftsman)
 - Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14)
- **Steward your Talents** - Kingdom Purposes
 - People & Place – Consider who is around you, in your area of influence you can uniquely reach
 - Prioritize – Lot’s of good things, but what is the right thing right now
 - Practice – hone your skills, use them, sharpen them
 - Passions – what makes you tick, what do you enjoy, what do you deeply care about.

Consider Time: As the great theologians “Hootie and the Blowfish” once asked, “Time, why you punish me?”

- **Scare** - Time is a resource (like money) that runs out. Unlike money, we can’t collect any more of it. Therefore it is rare and precious!
- **Temporary** - It is a dimension of this world only, therefore it is non-existent in Heaven/Eternity
- **God is Eternal** - God isn’t bound by time - since God is eternal, therefore time is nothing to Him.
- **Entrust your time to God** - Invest your time into Eternity. Use what will run out to invest in what will never run out.

Stewarding Time & Talent - Explore the Feeding of the 5,000 plus . . . (Matt 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, & John 6)

Time & Talent - Work & Rest

Mark 6:30-32 (ESV)

(30) The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. (31) And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. (32) And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

Note: Work & Rest go hand-in-hand in the King’s view of how time should be spent. Sabbath & 8hrs sleep.

Matthew 14:13 (ESV)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

Note: What did Jesus hear? Just learned of John the Baptist's death as a martyr.

Jesus needed to mourn & rest - prayer goes hand-in-hand with true rest. This was Jesus’ habit . . .

Mark 1:35 (ESV)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Application: Work & Rest - for our health, for kingdom purposes, for connecting with the King!

Back to the Story . . .

Time & Talent - Tending opportunities to love well

Mark 6:33-34 (ESV)

(33) Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. (34) When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Note: Jesus saw the need, had compassion, & ministered. **Mark** - teaching, **Matthew** - healing. **Luke** . . .

Luke 9:11 (ESV)

When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

Note: Luke gets specific - welcomed them (not begrudging), taught Kingdom, & healed (note the gifts!)

Application: Time & Talent - holy interruptions, Motivated by love we use our gifts to tend people around us!

Back to the Story . . .

Time & Talent - Seeking Jesus for His solution

Mark 6:35-38 (ESV)

(35) And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. (36) Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” (37) But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” (38) And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”

John 6:5-9 (ESV)

(5) Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (6) He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. (7) Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." (8) One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, (9) "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

Note: Jesus knows what to do - he wants to invite us in with him!

- Philip - sees the problem & lack of resource (accurately BTW), tries to solve it with money
- Andrew - sees the resource, and asks Jesus what they can do with it! (He asks questions like Jesus)

Mathew's Gospel account captures the solution in simple & straightforward language . . .

Matthew 14:16-18 (ESV)

(16) But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." (17) They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." (18) And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Application: Stewarding well is about identifying the need, and what we have (small and insignificant as it may seem), and then bringing them to Jesus.

To use time & talent wisely - don't ignore or minimize what you have. Just bring it to Him!

Back to the Story . . .

Time & Talent - Participating in the miracle

Mark 6:39-44 (ESV)

(39) Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. (40) So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. (41) And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. (42) And they all ate and were satisfied. (43) And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. (44) And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Note: Several cool observations . . .

- Gift of Administration - practical gifts amid the supernatural miracle (Matthew - 5,000 plus)
- We bring what we have to God, then what He blesses, He multiplies. We get to see it and participate.
- In God's Kingdom economy for those partnering in ministry, there is enough overflow to satisfy all.

Remember where we started - The disciples were tired and hungry! (12 baskets for . . . 12 disciples)

John 6:12-13 (ESV)

(12) And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." (13) So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

John 6:14-15 (ESV)

(14) When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" (15) Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Note: So many would try to ride this wave, and really Launch Their Ministry - but Jesus knew his true purpose and trusted the Lord's timing (not man's). After the miracle - he went back to rest in the Father's presence.