

LIFE GROUPS

Sermon Discussion Notes

Missions Month - Going Deeper in Mission - Week 4

Today we conclude this 4-week series focusing on the idea of 'Deeper in Mission'. As we look through the bible, there is a concept that crops up again and again - this is Gods heart for the world...see if you can identify a common theme through these verses:

READ Exodus 14:4

READ 1 Samuel 17:45-46

READ Habakkuk 2:12-14 “

(also Psalm 46:8-10; Isaiah 11:1-9; Isaiah 37 :14-20; Titus 2:11; Revelation 5:6-10)

There is a common theme through Scripture - that his glory might be made known throughout the earth to all people, and that they would come to follow him. That is the family business God is committed to, and he calls you and I to join him in that work.

Question: where are you at in terms of saying your yes to God, to join him in the family business? And for those who live a lifestyle of mission, is there a difference in what they think about God, that others do not?

READ Matthew 25:14-30

The servants had been 'talented' – that is, they were given talents, to be put to work until the master returned. **Relating this to us today, we have each been given resources to use until Jesus returns.**

Question: describe some of the individual abilities, skills, gifts, opportunities that you personally have received.

In Jesus' story, each servant is given funds according to his ability. God shows his wisdom in this; he knows the individual capacity of his servants, and matches their gifts to them.

Upon the return of the master, there is a time of accounting for the servants for what was done with the resources entrusted to them. We will all have to stand before Jesus, and describe what we did with the things assigned to us. Did we use the things we were given in the growth of the family business?

Verse 21: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

LIFE GROUPS

Question: Is there anything stopping every single Christian from hearing these words from the lips of Jesus about them one day? If yes, what is it?

Question: Discuss the difference between success and faithfulness, and how this relates to Jesus' words of the master in verse 21.

Verse 24 “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’”

The third servant has such a different point of view than the first two servants had. It is also a strange conclusion to come to, from what we know about the master. The third servant pictures himself as the victim - he never wanted the gift from his master, and he didn't want to produce a profit for his master – he managed to twist his master's generosity into something abusive.

Like in many of Jesus' parables, we find ourselves relating to one of the characters, and the intention is that we should ask, “**Is it I, Lord?**”

Question: how might we embody the attitude of the third servant? Are there gifts, abilities, opportunities etc, you have received from God that you have buried in the ground?

Our master is so good – beyond what we can even imagine. He proved it for all time. He handed us his property, he took the long faraway journey to the cross, to pay our debts that we might keep his blessings. He didn't just give us his property – he offered himself for us. And we have each been given gifts and abilities to be used for his glory, to achieve things of eternal significance. May it be that you are able to come to know the joy of living that out in these days.

Some questions to consider:

- What stood out to you from the message this week?
- What comes to mind when you think of God? Is he greedy and selfish, or gracious and generous?
- Are there gifts God has entrusted to you that you would rather not use? What are they?
- How does your own 'life purpose' align with Gods purpose for the world, that all may know him?
- Do you think that a life that is lived for God is a life that is wasted? Discuss.