

DOING NOTHING

Text: Matt. 25:14-30

a picture of X's followers as they deal with His gifts to the present day

INTRODUCTION: Salvation runs on a two-way street--man-ward and God-ward. Man gains and God gains. Man gains salvation, God gains a servant.

Ill- of potter and the clay--both gain.

God has a right to expect something--He has a right to demand something of us.

1- This parable assumes that all disciples are servants of Christ and that Christ expects something of them all--all have a work to do.

2- The talents signify ability and opportunity for service--God-given.

3- The main emphasis of the parable is the unprofitable servant. "Useless." How many fit that description. What has God gained through you. Are we profitable to God? Nothing more disappointing than a light that won't turn on--nothing more useless than a Christian that won't shine, salt that is not salty, teacher that won't teach, preacher that won't preach, deacon that won't deac., singer that won't sing.

I. THE WICKEDNESS OF DOING NOTHING. (Vs. 26)

1. A strong word--we use it seldom--Jesus used it seldom--seldom used in the N.T.

Ill- Senate investigations of political corruption. Life magazine gathered 160 reports from local newspapers. Only one used the word "Wicked" to describe the scandal.

2. Jesus uses this strong term to denounce the unprofitable servant.

3. We have departed from the viewpoint of Jesus. We courageously denounce things against which Jesus scarcely raised a voice. What Jesus condemned we often consider as a virtue.

4. What was the nature of his wickedness?

(1) Not a thief.

(2) Not a liar.

(3) Not a prodigal--this is what we would call wickedness.

Not what he did, but what he failed to do. His sin was the sin of doing nothing with what had been committed to him to use for his Lord.

James 4:17

5. This is what Jesus calls wickedness--unprofitableness.

- (1) Barren fig tree--cursed
- (2) Priest and Levite--did nothing.
- (3) Doctor withholding medicine.
- (4) Watchmen failing to warn.

Rich man + Lazarus

6. Why is it wickedness?

(1) Failed to recognize his position and duty as a servant

→ (2) Sinned against the honor and trust of his master. He did not deserve the talent. To turn all this over to a servant implies that he was honoring him with a great trust.

It aroused no response in his heart. HE REGARDED IT AS SOMETHING HE DID NOT DESIRE *S.S., Choir, Church*

(3) His responsibility was the lightest. He had no more than he could easily handle. He could not claim that if he had five talents he would have proved faithful; his unfaithfulness would have only been greater.

II. THE COSTLINESS OF DOING NOTHING.

- 1. He did not use what was committed to him so he lost it.
- 2. This is a law of nature--bind arm--you lose what you don't use. Destroy through neglect. *Caverns at Bull Shoals*

- (1) Garden--weeds
- (2) dirty house
- (3) home--wife
- (4) children--friends
- (5) church--choir, S.S., T.U., Visitation, etc., just don't care, don't come.

Israel failed to fulfill

Rev. "open door shut door."

- 3. Failure to use destroys the capacity.

Barren fig tree--failure to bear fruit destroys the capacity to bear fruit.

Prayer, soul-winning, concern, compassion, tears--some have lost their capacity for concern.

- 4. Given to someone else.

He who neglects his gifts enriches others and doubly defeats himself. No gift shall be lost.

- (1) Talent given to another
- (2) Good Samaritan
- (3) Sunday School class.

The crown you neglect is worn on another's head.

III. THE FOOLISHNESS OF DOING NOTHING

1. His excuse: convicts himself out of his own mouth. His excuse establishes His guilt. Wickedness always argues like a fool when it opens its mouth.

2. If the master was hard--he would have tripled the amount.

"I know Christ is Lord---so I'll do nothing."

The truth was he thought there would be no retribution

3. He was afraid--How human! Afraid he might not succeed. God does not ask us to succeed, only to be faithful. Faithfulness, not success, is the standard by which every man is judged.

Too conservative to venture.

When we stand in His presence, what excuse will make sense?

Ill D.L. Moody--criticized for public speaking. Doing the best with what he had. "What are you doing for Jesus with what you have?"

CONCLUSION: Our Lord delays His coming: (1) To test thoroughly the faithfulness of the servant.

(2) To give space and time for the unfaithful to repent and amend.

4-29-62. Valley View Bapt. - Dallas, Texas
7-19-62 - Immanuel Bapt. - Wagoner, Okla
3-12-63 - Bluff Ave Bapt. - Ft. Smith, Arkansas
1-63 - Immanuel Bapt. - El Dorado, Ark
3-10-64 - Berean Bapt Church - Tulsa, Okla
5-29-66 - Munger Place Bapt. - Dallas, Texas
7-30-67 MBBC - Irving, Tex