

Message For March 18, 2018

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

An Investment

Matthew 25:14-30 The Message (MSG)

14-18 “It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

19-21 “After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

22-23 “The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

24-25 “The servant given one thousand said, ‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.’

26-27 “The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

28-30 ““Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’

As Jesus headed toward Jerusalem, everyone expected Him to establish a political and earthly kingdom. Jesus tells this parable to teach that He will be rejected and killed and then return as King in full power and authority. Until then His servants (you and I) are to engage in kingdom work.

We are to use what has been entrusted to us in order to further the Kingdom of God.

Henri Nouwen writes of a priest who told him that he cancelled his subscription to the New York Times because he felt that the endless stories about war, crime, power games and political manipulation only disturbed his mind and heart and prevented him from meditation and prayer. “That is a sad story,” writes Nouwen. “A real spiritual life does exactly the opposite: it makes us so alert and aware of the world around us, that all that is and happens becomes part of our contemplation and meditation and invites us to a free and fearless response.” To invest in the Kingdom of God.

This story is talking about investing the life God gave us, in eternity and in living for Him now. We are to invest in people for the sake of the Kingdom.

The Parable of the Talents shows that we will be held accountable for how we use our time and resources.

Prayer impacts whatever we are praying about. It is an investment.

Anything in the world that I would like to impact can be touched in my prayer life.

Prayer helps us to get the perspective of heaven and eternity.

Prayer makes us more effective in pushing back the darkness.

God wants us to invest our gifts and talents in people, because those investments have eternal consequences and rewards.

Paul wrote to the Philippians to thank them for their support, but he said what meant the most to him was their generosity which gave them treasure in Heaven. They invested in the Apostle Paul but they were also investing in their eternity.

You will be rewarded for everything you’ve given away. Do we give away our time? You’ll be given eternity. What about your energy? There is a reward for that in Heaven. Are you investing your money and resources in people? You’ll be rewarded for that. And our real treasure is in heaven.

Matthew 19:29 New Living Translation (NLT)

JESUS SAYS:

²⁹ And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.

There is no other group along the Blvd just behind this wall that is able to minister to the people of Maplewood Village like we can.

We are strategically located to do Kingdom work by investing ourselves.

You live next door to, and work with, and take classes with, and are friends with, and are in families, to invest in... Life in the Kingdom.

NBC has a tv series called "This Is Us"

In Life in the Kingdom... both as individuals and as a church we invest in people:

- (1) This is what we do**
- (2) This is why we do it**
- (3) This is the value we are going to embrace**
- (4) This is how we are going to treat each other**
- (5) This is how we are not**
- (6) This means all people matter**
- (7) This is why we invite people into relationship with Jesus Christ**
- (8) This is our mandate**
- (9) This is us... because we are Kingdom people**

Remember who you are and to whom you belong

AMEN