



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Faithfulness Rewarded (Matthew 25:21)

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I trust that this 2013 series on service and leadership will help you reflect on God, His Word, and your own destiny.

INTRODUCTION

God has a bold plan for the life of each of us! I hope that you can look back on the dramatic turns in your own life and the lives of many others on their journey. Almost daily, I see God's powerful hand at work in lives around me. Many of you are currently in an exhilarating phase in life. Perhaps a few feel that you are stuck on a plateau, or worse, have been placed on a shelf. The purpose of this mini lesson is to help you reflect on the work that God may be doing in your life and the lives of those that you love.

FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

*Matthew 25:21 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.'*¹

Jesus told this parable during the Olivet Discourse, making reference to the faithfulness of His followers. The measure addressed the fruitfulness of their service. He told a very similar parable while walking from Jericho to Jerusalem (Luke 19:11-27). The reference was fruitfulness while the context was that of a ruler traveling to Rome to receive a kingdom, one of the providences. Jesus likened our diligence reward to the number of cities that we would be made ruler over! The parable also illustrates the tragedy of wasted opportunities. I have recovered from some of these; others are gone in this lifetime. Each of us, whether serving or leading, is regularly tested in faithfulness. **The prescription for passing these tests is to hold ourselves accountable in tasks and challenges.**

FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE

It is enlightening to read through the last couple of paragraphs of the Apostle Paul's letters, books of the New Testament. He challenges some of his followers and gives tasks to others. I noticed that none of these workers were paid staff! Many of your greatest career and service **opportunities come from professional and organizational work.**

ASSIGNED TASKS

Paul sent Tychicus and Onesimus hundreds of miles to deliver his letters to the Colossians, the Ephesians, and to a businessman named Philemon. Paul praised their faithfulness, writing in this public forum. Paul also admonished Archippus, asking others to remind this team member of the charge which was delegated to him (Colossians 4:17). Paul advised readers to avoid others who do not follow instructions (2Thessalonians 3: 14-15). **Are you tenacious in carrying out tasks?** This is a very popular leadership measure. Sometimes given purposefully, we are tested through tasks, both small and great! **Can you recall some such tasks given to you and your resulting evaluation?**

SELF-INITIATED CHALLENGES

Leaders of the early church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas off to Antioch with the charge to help the new Christians there. Upon arriving, Barnabas saw the scope of the task and felt that Saul (Paul) would be better equipped to lead the challenge. Barnabas set off to find Paul in Tarsus, a city of several days walk. This began the ministry of Paul, who, more than any other individual was responsible for the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Barnabas' self initiated challenge to find Paul was definable and had closure, giving him accountability to the church elders.² **Are you looking for opportunities to follow through on tasks and challenges, proving your talent for service and leadership? Are you cautious of being stalled, or treading on a plateau, declining in frequency or in response to self-initiated challenges or assignments? Do you gage your enthusiasm for recruiting or challenging new leaders?**³

A PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for trusting me, giving me the tenacity to follow through on tasks. I thank You for Your faithfulness in seeing me through the demands of this life of service. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (Crossway Bibles) 2001.

² J. Robert Clinton, The Making of a Leader. (NavPress) 2012 p70.

³ Ibid.