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Do Business Until I Come Back



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #18 ~

I want to look at a parable that has greatly impacted my life, that has made me very excited about serving the Lord in these days. Luke 19:11 – *"Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that God's kingdom was going to appear immediately."* This story was about a nobleman going away to receive a kingdom, and in the meantime his ten slaves were to invest his money, to put his money to work. He instructed them, *"Do business until I come back*." Luke 19:13. The main lesson of this parable is that, during this church age, you are to use the talents, time and money God has given you for His purposes and glory.

God has given you unique gifts and abilities, and a certain amount of money to use, and a certain amount of time to live. And as a Christian, these things aren't yours – you don't own anything, for everything you have is what God has temporarily given you. He is the owner, He is the Master, and you are just a manager, a steward, a slave. And you are not to work for yourself but for God, using the gifts, abilities, money and

time He has given you.

You have to realize that God Himself has made you a certain way, and has given you all you need to do all the work He wants you to. This should excite you, and motivate you to work for God, to *"do business"* right up until Christ comes back, right up to the rapture. As a Christian, you are extremely privileged to be God's servant, and so work for Him and do His work. Be faithful. Be diligent. Be pragmatic. Work joyfully. Work hard. Work smart. *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* Ephesians 2:10

This God-planned work can relate to serving in the church, and so use your spiritual gifts. It can relate to working at a job, and so use your talents. Yes, you may be a nurse, a teacher, an engineer, a factory worker, a farmer, a cook, a graphic artist, a wife, a mother, a pastor, etc., but remember, all your work is spiritual, and it has both earthly and eternal value. *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance."* Colossians 3:23-24.

Now you may retire from working at a job, but you are to never retire from working for God. No matter your age, keep investing your life in God's work until Christ comes back, or until you die. Don't be short sighted, but see your life in light of the ages to come – and remember that God wants to eternally bless you for your earthly work. Look forward to what Jesus wants to say to you, *"Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities."* Luke 19:17

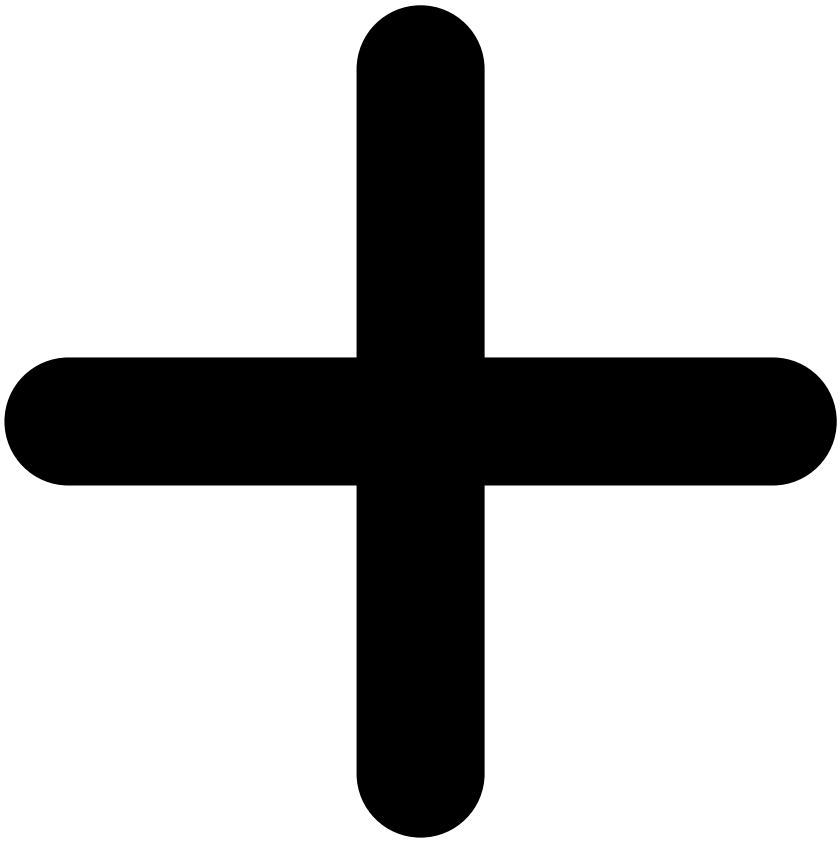
Then there is the sad part in this parable about the wicked, worthless and fearful slave, who wasn't working for his master, and who was wasting his money. Luke 19:20-26. The master was right to take what he had given him and give it to someone else who would use it in a

productive way. The lesson for us is simple – might we not be lazy, selfish or worldly, but might we wake up and get to work.

Let us also remember the overall work of the church. Matthew 24:14 – *"This gospel is to be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."* Matthew 28:19-20 – *"Go and make disciples of all the nations..."* Yes, we have different jobs we're doing for the Lord, but they need to be seen in the context of preaching the gospel and making disciples. It's important then to be in a church that's focused on preaching the gospel and teaching the Word.

This parable is for all believers during this church age, but it has particular relevance for us at this time. About 2000 years ago, "*they supposed that God's kingdom was going to appear immediately."* But now we live in the end times, and therefore Christ is coming back soon, and then His kingdom will appear. We should be thrilled to think that in all of history, now is our time, now is our opportunity to serve the Lord. Let it be said again, "*Do business until I come back*."

P.S. Here are two links to information related to this post which I believe may encourage you: Luke 19 sermon – *Being a Good Steward;* and a new article: *The Time of My Life.*



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