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WHAT DETERMINES SUCCESS?

So often here in the United States, success is determined by “things.” There are so many clichés that speak of it. There have been commercials exploiting the luxuries of having things and making it seem that that is success. Even ministries are caught up in goals for success of their ministry. Now don’t get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with ministry goals, but if it leads to building man’s kingdom instead of God’s there is something wrong.

As we look at Matthew 25:15 we read the stories of the talents. ***“¹⁴for the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵and unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several (individual ability); and straightway took his journey.”***

We see that the man gave it to his servants “according to their ability”. One got Five, one got two and one got one. What we are given is what God knows we can handle. The parable goes on to say ***“¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money.”*** When the man came to see what they had done with the talents (which represents goods which can be increased, including money) the two that had been given more had doubled what they had. They were faithful and good stewards. The parable continues with verse 24: ***“²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came, and said, Lord, I knew that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast now sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed: ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. ²⁶ His Lord answered and said unto him Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed: ²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers (bankers) and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury (interest).”*** The one that did nothing but bury it had it taken away and he was cast out into darkness, which is symbolic for hell where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. His talent was then given to the one that did the most with what God had given.

The man represents God. The talents are the gifts he gives us. What we do with what God gives us is very important. If we are found faithful and bring increase, we receive what those that weren’t found faithful were given. What a principle. It is never about how much God gives us. It is being faithful with it no matter how big or little it is. Never base your success on things. Base it on being faithful with what God has given you. Take the gifts and use them for God. They may only grow a little, but God will find you faithful.