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OCCUPIED OR PREOCCUPIED?

In Luke 19:12-13 Jesus tells a parable about a certain nobleman that went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom. He called ten servants to him and gave them money and told them to ***"Occupy till I come."***

This is the only place that this word is used in the scripture. The word occupy doesn't mean just to live in a dwelling or take up space. It comes from the root word "pragma" which means business matters, work, to trade. It means to busy oneself. In this case, it was to busy themselves with the money that the nobleman gave them and cause it to increase.

So often a person is led to Christ and isn't taught that he is to share the gift of salvation with others. Salvation is a free gift, but we aren't to keep it to ourselves. This would be like giving the money to the servants. We receive salvation, and then what? Are we just to sit back and be happy we are saved? No, it means more than that. It means to take the gift that God has given you and use it to further "his" kingdom.

There was a day in same chapter of Luke where the nobleman came back to have account of what was done with the "pound" or money that was given. Each man that had been given stewardship and the responsibility to "occupy" was to give an accounting. Most increased what had been given, but one did nothing with what was given, and that was taken away.

He made excuses for not causing it to increase. Perhaps he was afraid. Perhaps he was preoccupied with life and family matters. Perhaps he didn't know how to invest. This didn't matter to the nobleman. The servant was told to "occupy" and bring increase.

There will be a day that we will give an accounting to God (the nobleman) for what He has entrusted us with. It is better to be occupied with work that brings increase than to use the excuse that we were pre-occupied and did nothing. We can't take lightly what God gives to us, or we will lose it.

We need to be about the Father's (nobleman's) business before He comes back so we can show him the gifts given to us were valued enough to bring increase.