

2023 Focus: Living by the Word of God Matthew 4:4

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"Kingdom Living" Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV

This parable shows us how the Kingdom of God works. Remember when we receive Jesus as our Lord we become Kingdom citizens – Philippians 3:20, Ephesians 2:6. Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of God – Mark 1:15.

The Kingdom of Heaven refers to the reign and rule of God in Heaven and on earth. It is a place of peace, love and justice where God's will is done and His Glory revealed. Jesus taught His disciples to pray Kingdom prayers – Matthew 6:9-10. Jesus also commanded all believers to seek the Kingdom of God – Matthew 6:33. Remember in every Kingdom there is a King in the Kingdom of God. Jesus is King – Revelation 19:13, 16; John 18:36; Ephesians 1:20-21; Psalm 24:10.

Therefore now as Saints of God we must operate by Kingdom rules not the rules of the world – Romans 12:1-2. In this parable Jesus shows us God's view of the Kingdom and how it relates to those of us who are His servants. He shows us what Kingdom Living looks like:

God is in total control (verse 14) – He owns us and everything else – Psalm 24:1-2.
 Kingdom Living is living knowing that we belong to God – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and everything belongs to Him. It is not only us trusting God but God also trusting us – Matthew 25:14 AMPC. Remember this is Kingdom Living.

2) God chooses to partner with His servants (verses 14-15)

- a. He gives us *His* goods (v14a). Remembers since He owns us, He still owns the goods He gives to us.
- b. He gives to us according to the ability that we have. John 15:16 teaches us that the abilities that we have are from Him and for production purposes.
 Ephesians 4:7-8 teaches that we all have gifts or special abilities Romans 12:6.

*Principal whatever assignment God has given us, He fully expects us to produce for Him. The execution is wrapped in the gift and abilities He has given to us because His gifts are operated by His power – Philippians 2:13. Therefore God fully expects increase. Whenever we invest what He has given us for His sake He always blesses us with even more – Mark 10:29-30.

- 3) <u>God rewards faithfulness (verses 20-21)</u> remember that God never commanded us to be successful but He does command faithfulness. If we are faithful we will be successful. Successful is pleasing God Joshua 1:8, Hebrews 11:6.
 - a. God expects increase (vs20).
 - b. God attributes the increase in verse #20 to faithfulness of His servants.
 Therefore we can deduce that the servant consistently obeyed God and God directed his path Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - c. God reward for faithfulness is increased in responsibility. Therefore when we are faithful, we don't have to pray for increase.
 - d. God also shares His joy with us, "enter the joy of the Lord." "Let's celebrate together!" (vs 21 NLT). This is gladness of heart which comes from knowing and obeying God. It is a constant gladness and cause to rejoice. It's knowing that you have obeyed God and He is pleased.