

STRATEGIC LIFE PRINCIPLES

Matthew 25:14-30

- ***What are some areas of your life that you wish were healthier?***
- **It's important to pursue health in every area of life - physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, financially, etc.**
- **In the *Parable Of The Talents* Jesus taught some principles that help people begin to experience God's best in every area of their lives.**
- **We are called to be good *stewards* of our health, mind, abilities, relationships, influence and the monies that God has entrusted to us.**
- ***What are some principles that help us to live healthier lives financially and in other areas of life?***

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>POSSESSION</u>

- *"He called together his servants and entrusted <u>his money</u> to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities."* (Matthew 25:14-15)
- **As Christians, everything we have is a gift from God and belongs to the Lord (James 1:17).**
- **We didn't bring anything with us when we came into the world, and we're not taking property and possessions with us when we leave this world.**
- **When we worry about our money and possessions it's a sign we think it all belongs to us and we're focused on temporal rather than eternal things.**
- **The fact that the Lord has entrusted us with abilities and resources indicates that He has great plans for our lives.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>ALLOCATION</u>

- *"He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money."* (Matthew 25:15-18)
- **Everyone has received abilities and resources from the Lord, although some have seemingly received more than others.**
- **Money is to be used, not something to be loved, hoarded, wasted or buried.**
- **A lot of people struggle with financial health because they're working for money rather than putting money to work.**
- **We have to choose to do something productive with the abilities and resources the Lord has entrusted to us.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>EXAMINATION</u>

- *"After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money."* (Matthew 25:19)
- **One day the Lord is going to engage us in a life and financial audit because He has entrusted us with many abilities and resources.**
- *"Each one of us will give an account of himself to God."* (Romans 14:12)
- **It may be fun to be irresponsible for a short time, but not for the long term.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>UTILIZATION</u>

- *"The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant...' The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant...' Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master . . . I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant!...'"* (Matthew 25:20-27)
- **Lots of people blame God and others for their life mismanagement and financial woes.**
- *"People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord."* (Proverbs 19:3)
- **The Lord expects us to use the abilities and resources we have in wise and fruitful ways.**

- **God calls laziness and money mismanagement wickedness (Luke 16:1-12).**
- **The Lord has placed us on earth so that we can utilize our abilities, resources and influence for good and for God (Ephesians 2:10).**
- **When we don't utilize our abilities, resources and influence for good and for God we lose joy and opportunities in this life and the next life.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>MOTIVATION</u>

- *"Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'"* (Matthew 25:24-25)
- **God has given us principles that lead to success in our lives, but we are often afraid to trust Him and do things His way.**
- **Fear often holds us back in our lives, but the Lord will help us overcome our fears and our failures if we will trust Him.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>APPLICATION</u>

- *"Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. <u>To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance</u>. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.'"* (Matthew 25:28-29)
- **If we don't use in good ways what God has entrusted to us we will lose it.**
- **If we will use our abilities and resources well and give to the Lord our time, talents and money He will bless us with more.**

To Live Healthier Lives We Must Understand:

THE PRINCIPLE OF <u>COMPENSATION</u>

- *"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'"* (Matthew 25:21)
- **The Lord will reward us for good stewardship and management of our abilities, resources and influence.**

- **Our handling of money is the test of how much we trust God in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"* (Luke 16:11-12)

- *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”* (Matthew 6:24)
- ***If the Lord conducted an audit today of how I’ve handled my life and finances, what kind of grade would He give me?***