

Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Topic: Finding My Place

INTRODUCTION: From our previous class, we understand that _____ in the Body of Christ has gifts and _____ that God has given to be used for the _____ of God and it is clear from the Word of God that none of these should be unused or wasted.

I. STEWARDS:

A. We Have Received:

1. From the parable of the Talents that Jesus taught, it is very clear that God _____ to every individual something to be put to _____ in the Kingdom of God. Mt. 25:15
2. Everyone who received one or more talents was expected to take what had been _____ and put it to _____ and use it for the purpose of the Master. Eph. 4:7,8

B. Accountability:

1. It is evident from this teaching of Jesus that one day everyone will be required to give an _____ of what was done with the gifts and _____ that were given to us. Lk. 16:1-2, Mt. 25:19
2. From the teaching of Jesus, we also learn that doing _____ with what has been given to us will not please the Master when He comes back again, but will instead put us on the _____ side of rewards. Mt. 25:26-30

C. Faithfulness:

1. The Word of God makes it very clear that the number _____ requirement for being a good steward is not ability, but it is _____. I Cor. 4:2
2. The individual who had only two talents in the beginning was rewarded exactly the _____ as the one who had five talents, and the word that the Master used for both was _____. Mt. 25:20-23

II. A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS:

A. Ministers:

1. In the Old Testament, the Lord chose a particular tribe of _____ to be the priests and ministers in the Tabernacle or the Church and no _____ people were permitted to do the work of God.
2. In the New Testament Church, the Lord has ordained that _____ individual that is born again is to be a part of _____ in the Body of Christ. I Pet. 2:5
3. When God chose the tribe of Levi and Aaron and his sons to be the _____ in Israel, He specifically used the word _____ to describe the work that they would do. Ex. 28:1

B. New Testament Ministers:

1. Though the priesthood of the Old Testament was reserved for a specific _____ of individuals, the Lord changed the pattern in the New Testament, opening the _____ for every individual to become a part of the _____ ministry. I Pet. 2:9
2. As we saw in our last lesson, the New Testament Church lost its _____ and power after the fourth century and instead of everyone being involved in _____, the system reverted back to the Old Testament pattern of priesthood for certain elites and no one else could be involved.

III. THE CHURCH – A BODY:

A. *Every Part Necessary:*

1. The church and people of God are described as a flock, an army, a garden, a holy _____, etc. but the most apt description of all is the _____ of Christ. I Cor. 12:27
2. In the body, _____ part is necessary and has a function that the body _____ in order to perform properly and be effective. I Cor. 12:14-18

B. *Finding Our Place:*

1. Since God has placed every one of us in His Body, it is evident that each of us has a _____ to play in the function of His Body – the church and if we do not contribute, the _____ will be lacking. I Cor. 12:19-25
2. How do we find our place? It is by evaluating the _____ and talents that God has given to each of us and then realizing that they have been given to us to use not just for ourselves, but also for the _____ and ministry of the Body of Christ.

C. *Evaluation:*

1. The service gift evaluation test is one of the means to help understand what are the _____ and talents that God has given to us.
2. This will help us to see where exactly we fit into the _____ of the Body of Christ.

CONCLUSION: We must all come to the understanding that we have been _____ to _____ and God desires to _____ the gifts and abilities that He has given to us for the work of the ministry in the Body of Christ.