

**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.