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## Eternity – Now Taking Applications

Luke 19:11-27

### THE STORY:

Luke 19:11-27

The crowd's expectations:

Historical relevance:

### LESSONS FROM THE KING:

Everyone gets equal trust and opportunity, not gifts.

Luke 19:13, Matthew 25:15, John 4:35, Ephesians 4:7-8, 2 Peter 3:9

There is an expectation to use what we have been given.

Luke 19:13-15, Luke 12:42-48, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 1 Peter 4:8-11

The reward for faithful service is not rest, but more service.

Luke 19:17-19, Matthew 5:12, 25:21-23, Genesis 1:28, 2 Timothy 2:12, Luke 22:28-30, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Revelation 22:5, Matthew 13:43, Romans 8:16-17, Isaiah 9:7, Daniel 7:15-28, Revelation 2:26, 3:21, 5:9-10, 7:13-15, 20:4-6 ("Heaven" by Randy Alcorn)

There is no standing still in the Christian life.

Luke 19:24-26, John 4:35, Matthew 7:26, James 4:17

Rejection is allowed, but it is a life or death decision.

Luke 19:27, Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 8:38, Romans 2:5-11, Hebrews 9:27, Luke 12:13-21

## **Growth Group Homework**

For the week of October 29, 2006

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**QUICK REVIEW:** Was there one point from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you in regards to heaven and/or using the talents God has given you?

### **MY STORY**

1. Have you ever found yourself expecting a reward and then not receiving it? Have you ever received a reward you didn't expect? If so, what did you learn?

2. Have you ever found yourself comparing your gifts and abilities to someone else's? What's the danger in this?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. This weekend we heard how there's so much more to heaven than just getting there. The extra benefits we receive are directly related to how we use what God has given us here on earth. Fortunately, God hasn't kept these benefits hidden. Read the following Scriptures and what we need to do to receive kingdom rewards.

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. [NIV]

#### **Colossians 3:23-25**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, [24] since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. [25] Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. [NIV]

#### **Luke 6:32-36**

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. [33] And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. [34] And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. [35] But love your

enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. [36] Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. [NIV]

**Matthew 5:11-12**

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. [NIV]

How do these verses add, change or confirm your understanding of spiritual rewards and their pursuit?

2. Another motivation in using our gifts, abilities or talents is understanding who's the owner. How do the following verses help us understand the balance of ownership of our gifts and abilities?

**Isaiah 45:7**

I form the light and create darkness,  
I bring prosperity and create disaster;  
I, the Lord, do all these things. [NIV]

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. [NIV]

**James 1:16-18**

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. [NIV]

What are some possible dangers of thinking they are just our gifts? What are some possible dangers of not realizing and embracing what God has given us?

3. Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. How have you seen your use of talents and abilities compare or contrast to the actions of the servants?

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. [15] To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. [17] So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. [18] But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

[19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

[21] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

[22] "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

[23] "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

[24] "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

[26] "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

[28] " 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. [29] For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [NIV]

Modern day equivalents to the talents God has given us could fall into the following three categories:

- skills and abilities
- money or possessions
- positions of influence, relationships or roles in life

What are some of the talents you believe God has given you?

Are there any you need to be careful of burying?

What are some ways you could invest what God has given you?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Looking back at the expectation to use what God has given you, can you identify a specific

area of spiritual influence inside and outside the church where you would be missed if you were absent? Is there something you might like to start doing that you're not?

2. One of the key ways to begin to discover, confirm and fine-tune the specific gifts and abilities God has given you is to jump in and start serving. Below is just a sampling of the many ministries within the church where you could use your abilities. Are there any new service opportunities that you need to consider (or reconsider) as a result of this week's teaching?

Nursery or Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries

Adult Ministries

Care and Concern Ministry

Tech., Facilities, Administrative Ministries

Community Service

(Check out: [www.northcoastchurch.com/service/index.asp](http://www.northcoastchurch.com/service/index.asp))

***Want more information?***

Go to [www.northcoastchurch.com/serving/index.htm](http://www.northcoastchurch.com/serving/index.htm)

or call the church office for more specifics in getting involved, 760.724.6700.