

Ten Major Causes of Failure – Part IX – Handle Your Business
John Bell, Associate Elder, GraceWay Church

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Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Text: Matthew 25:21

His Lord said unto him. Well done thou good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Theme: You have been called to handle the business of the Lord.

Thrust: If you are not handling the business of the Lord's, then who's business are you handling.

Introduction

In the world in which we live, we see a lot of people going about their lives doing whatever they want to do. We get up for work, go to our respective jobs and do what the boss tells us to do based on the type of responsibility we have. Such as leader ex. President of the U.S. who runs the country, congress who helps make and pass laws. The doctor who goes to the hospital to care for patients. The lab techs who go to work to assist in helping the doctor to determine the right course of treatment. The grocery stores and appliance stores who sell food and household goods. The list could go on and on, all positions require responsibility, commitment, and faithfulness – but do we really measure up to those standards.

Handle Your Business

But when it comes to doing God's business where do we stand? This is what the message is about. Are we handling the business the Lord has given us or are we doing our own thing – which leads to failure.

In Matthew 25:14-15 Jesus tells the story of a man who was going on a long journey. He called his servants together and gave each of them different amounts of money to handle according to their ability. When we consider ourselves we do not all have the same talents and abilities. We cannot all do the same things, but we can all be what God has called us to be and do. I cannot be who you are and you cannot be who I am, but we can each be all that God wants us to be.

Handle your business

Many people are frustrated and miserable because they do not feel fulfilled. They are not being all they can be and doing all that they know they are supposed to be doing. They are letting the devil or other people talk them out of their calling and their blessing. This is what happened to one of the servants in Matthew 25. The man who was going on a Journey gave talents to three of his servants before he left.

(Let's look at Matthew 25:15 and read it)

I say neighbor, oh neighbor I can't be what you want me to be, but I can be all that God has called me to be. Handle your business!

- I. Are you spreading yourself to thin? What do you do with the good that has been placed in your possession?
- II. Goods- gifts, abilities, responsibilities.....

In order to handle someone else's business, they must know something about you:

1. You either already work for them or are under consideration for hire
2. In this parable those who were entrusted with the goods were servants of their master.

Question Who is your master?

A servant – bond servant; He called those who was supposedly His own and who was supposedly faithful and responsible to His service. He had brought them. They were to be His own and to serve Him.

In Paul's definition of servant – slave means being totally possessed by the master, it is a bond servant bound by law to a master.

Taking a closer look at the slave market of Paul's day show's what he meant when he said he was a slave of Jesus Christ.

1. a slave was bound by his master, he was totally possessed by his master. Paul was purchased and possessed by Christ. Christ had looked upon him and seen his degraded and needful condition. Christ looked and a wonderful thing happened. Christ loved him and brought him, therefore he was now a possession of Christ.
2. The slave existed for his master and had no other reason for existence.
3. The slave served his master and existed only for the purpose of service. He was at the master's disposal anytime day or night.
4. The slave will belong to his master. He was allowed no will or ambition other than the will and ambition of the master.

1 Peter 1:18-19 & 1 Peter 2:9-10

The name that Peter calls believers are important because they reveal our identity. We know who we are, we belong to God. We have received his call, mercy and claims on our lives. As a result we can commit ourselves to others and work with them to achieve common goals.

Why did he call them?

- To put his goods (gifts) into their hands while he was away. His property had to be

looked after and increased and bettered while he was away. The property of the Lord means the world and the souls of men. The servants are given the very same mission and work that Christ had: to minister to the souls of men and to the desperate of the world.

- The Lord gave each servant a different portion of His goods to look after. Each person was given a special talent (gift or responsibility).
- Ephesians 4:7 *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”*
- Romans 12:4-8, 1Cor 12:4-10, 1Peter 4:10

Therefore each person is expected to work and serve

Gifts given according to their ability

1. No two servants have the same ability ; environment, opportunity, genes, heritage, training, mind, heart, discipline, initiative – each is different
“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two and to another one; to Every man according to his several ability and straightway took his journey”
Matthew 25:15
“For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast Thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory as if thou hast not received it? (1Cor4:7)
2. God gives His goods (gifts), as He will, knowing each servant perfectly.

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to everyone Severally (exactly) as He will (1Cor12:11)
3. Each Servant receives all the gifts he need and can use. (Rom 12:4-8) and (1Cor 12:4-10)
4. Each servant has equal opportunity to be faithful in using what God has given him. We are to be judged on our faithfulness, not on the number or size of the work we are assigned.

II Gods expectation of us:

1. God expects us to bear fruit.
2. God expects us to work in his vineyard.
3. God expects us to be faithful.

III God settles his account with us:

In Matt. 25:21 His master said to Him well done you upright (honorable, admirable , and faithful) servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little. I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy (the delight, the blessedness) which your Master enjoys.

When the Lord returns will you have been so busy, that you miss out because of wrong investment, spreading yourself to thin or will he be able to say unto you well done thou good and faithful; thou hast been fruitful over a few things and I will make you ruler over many things, enter through into the joy of the Lord.

THE CHOICE IS YOUR'S, CHOOSE NOW WHO YOU WILL SERVE. AMEN

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Another major reason of failure to follow through with God's plan is spreading oneself to thin.

1. We often get confused about who the BOSS is.
2. We often fail to realize what responsibility we have been given.
3. We fail to put to use what has been given to us for a purpose.
4. Finally after giving accountability for our actions some may surely loose out.