

INVESTING YOUR LIFE SO IT REALLY COUNTS

Matthew 25:14-30

The Bible is very clear that you and I were created to make a contribution with our lives. We sometimes think ministry is only what pastors do, but God's plan is that ministry is for everyone. When you take your talents and your abilities and whatever you're good at and use it to help other people unselfishly, God says that contribution of your life is called your ministry. Someday, each of us will give an account before God for how we lived our lives and invested our lives. Our Scripture this morning tells us a story of how to prepare for the final exam of life. Let's look at seven principles of life investment from this Biblical story.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTING YOUR LIFE

1. OWNERSHIP: Everything I have r_____ b_____ to G_____.

verse 14

2. ALLOCATION: God has given me some u_____ t_____.

verse 15 Romans 12:6

3. ACCOUNTABILITY: God expects me to u_____ my t_____.

verse 19 Romans 14:12

One day God will ask ME: What did you d_____ with what you were g_____?

4. UTILIZATION: It is wrong for me to b_____ what God g_____ m_____.

*First man doubled his talents v.16

*Second man doubled his talents v.17

*Third man b_____ his talents v.18

The master's reaction: vs. 26, 27 "You wicked, lazy servant"

5. MOTIVATION: I_____ is f_____ that keeps me from using my talent.

verse 25

Three kinds of fear: self doubt, self-consciousness, self-pity

6. APPLICATION: If I don't use it, I l_____ i_____.

verse 28 Hebrews 13:21

7. COMPENSATION: If I use my talent wisely, I will b_____ r_____.

verse 23

When are you going to move into ministry?