

AD Part 11- The Danger of Missed Opportunities

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. 2
Corinthians 6:2

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

How we view God is deeply reflected in how we talk to Him.

You cannot convince people that you are awesome and that God is awesome at the same time.

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag 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 five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. 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 two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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 one bag of gold 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 gold 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 “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.
29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.
Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And
throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ Matthew 25:14-29**

We tend to love Jesus more when we assume that he requires nothing from us.

This is ultimately a message about accountability to the individual members of the church.

**36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor
the Son, but only the Father. 42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not
know on what day your Lord will come. 50 The master of that servant will come
on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.
13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
Matthew 24:36,42,50 25:13**

What we do in Jesus’ absence is directly related to how we feel about him in the present.

‘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.

The servant did nothing immoral with the gold he was given, his crime was that he did nothing at all.

When Jesus returns, the choices we make regarding our present determine the choice that he will make regarding our eternity.

The shift in Jesus’ message gives evidence of His command over the moment, the seriousness of His mission and the importance of our response.