

*In
Search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

**Vol. 02
No. 39
04/27/
2008**

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philipians 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication
of the
**Wellsburg
church of
Christ**

Your Talents

By: Ethan R. Longhenry

Imagine that you have been given \$2,000, and you are charged to take it and make more money. How would you do so?

Would you go and try to find ways to invest it? Would you use it to buy some tools or some other resources so that you could work and make money with them? Would you buy property and hope that it would increase in value? At the very least, would you not put it in a savings account at a bank and make interest on it?

What do you expect would happen to you if you did nothing with the money at all? What if you went and spent it on things that did not lead to profit? If the \$2,000 were whittled away to nothing, what could be done?

We can see clearly the consequences of how people handle worldly wealth-- some impoverish themselves by irresponsible living, and others take opportunities provided to them and become successful in life. The difference is rarely seen in terms of natural abilities; the difference involves what one chooses to do with that which one has been given.

Jesus provides this same scenario in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:12-27. In these stories, three servants are given sums of money: either a talent or a mina. In each story, two servants take the money and use it profitably, making two to ten times more money than the original sum given. Likewise, each story presents one servant who did nothing with the money at all, and simply gave back to his master that which he received. In both instances, that servant is punished (in Matthew, he is even cast into the outer darkness!), and the purpose of the story is made clear:

"I say unto you, that unto every one that hath shall be given; but from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away from him" (Luke 19:26).

Should we say that Jesus is just enriching the already rich? By no means!

This Bulletin is published by the:

**Wellsburg
church of Christ**

which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

**Bible Classes* 10:00 AM
AM Worship 10:45 AM
PM Worship 6:30 PM**

WEDNESDAY

**Bible Classes* 7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)**

The stories are not really about money-- they are about the gifts that God has given us. God has given to each person gifts according to their measures and abilities (cf. Romans 12:6-8). He does not expect everyone to be able to accomplish the same amount or to be exactly alike: diversity of talents and specialties is expected in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-28)!

What God does expect is for us to put our talents to use for His Kingdom! In Luke 16:8, Jesus upbraids the "children of light" because they are not wiser than the "sons of this world." We have plenty of examples of people who have come from relative poverty and have become quite rich because they were willing to use the gifts they had to make money, yet how often are we willing to put our gifts to use for God? What would happen if we applied our talents and energies to promoting God's Kingdom as much and as often as people of the world apply theirs to gaining money? How much more like Christ would we be, and how many more people would we attract to the faith (Matthew 5:13-16)?

We would never take money and just sit on it. Why do we take the gifts God gives us and let them rot away? God expects us to take what He has given us and use it to advance His will (1 Peter 4:10-11). If we are found to have wasted the talents God has given us, not only will we "have not," but even that which we "have" -- our soul -- will be cast into the outer darkness (Matthew 25:30)! What, then, will you do with your talents?

Today's Sermon:

*AM—The Power of the
Resurrection*

SR—Psalm 69:1-3

*PM—Blessed Through
Fellowship*

SR—Acts 2:42-44

A Simple Story About Simple Trust

Hebrews 11:8

By: Warren E. Berkley

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude; innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore" (Hebrews 11:8-12).

When God called Abraham, how did Abraham respond? He obeyed.

There was no immediate, tangible reward. He didn't know *"where he was going."* But *"by faith Abraham obeyed. ..."* His faith found expression in action. And *"by faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."* Here is the story of a man who sojourned, traveled, wandered about in this foreign land with his boys, and he did this for about 100 years. Why?

Because he believed he should do whatever God says!

Based on the same faith in God, *"he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and*

maker is God." This is a simple story about simple trust. He left his hometown and sojourned in tents, and lived in hope of something better that he could not see; all of this based on his trust in God. He had a strong expectation of a fixed habitation and a permanent abode: *"he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*

Milligan said, "This is given...as the reason why Abraham was satisfied to live as a stranger and sojourner in Canaan. He did so because he was looking for the city which hath the foundations, whose architect and Builder is God. From this and other like passages we are constrained to think that God had given to the patriarchs information with regard to the heavenly country far beyond what is now recorded in Genesis or any other part of the Old Testament" (Milligan, on Heb. 11:10, p. 308).

Again, I am impressed by the simplicity of this story: Here is a man who believed he should do what God says, and wanted to go to heaven! So, when God gave him instruction, he obeyed. Regarding his wife, *"by faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised."* God had promised there would be a son born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. At first, Sarah laughed at the very idea but eventually she fully accepted God's promise. She became another example of the activity of simple trust in God.

"Therefore," verse 12 adds, *"from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."* Simple trust in God rewarded!

God promised a son would be born to this old couple, they believed and lived by their faith in God, the son was born and from that son a whole nation of people came, *"innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."* From that nation, the Messiah came to live and die for us. Simple, obedient trust in God was involved in the coming of the Messiah. Simple, obedient trust is the only acceptable response to Him.

The kind of faith illustrated by Abraham and Sarah is just what we need. It means, hearing, believing and doing what God says, trusting His promise of a better place: *"here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come"* (Hebrews 13:14).

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Dave Brewer's granddaughter—Cheyenne Elizabeth Brewer
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Trudell Tennant
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Audrio Gaudio, Nancy Morris' great-granddaughter
- Marie Roberts, & Ed's father, Jim Roberts.
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Cary & Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Pauline Sellers
- Ethel Mahan

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap