



CITY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MINISTRY SCHOOL

Lesson 3 – TRUE MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

We have now set the stage to begin to understand the context and placement of real ministry from lessons one and two. We know that we are in the world but not of the world even though we are human beings. By becoming Christians, we have been translated into a matrix called the Kingdom of God.

The primary and sole agenda of God is not to bless us so that we can have good and successful lives and blend in with the world. The sole reason why we are saved is that we have a reconciled relationship with God first and then lovingly call others back into a relationship with the Lord. This is our sole purpose for living, our higher goal which should drive everything, yes everything we do. If we lose sight of this, we lose our 'saltiness' and we become of no use to God and the Kingdom.

The World does not have any clue regarding what we are talking about because it is in darkness. Good and lovely and brilliant people but in spiritual blindness.

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

That is why it is a very selfish mindset to be saved and 'hide your talent in the ground'. We cannot live, laugh, and lounge with people that are perishing and not even try to reach, warn, or show them the light we have. God loves them dearly and that's why He gave you the brilliance and abilities you have to get closer to those you are called to reach!

Ministry therefore becomes the creative means by which God touches and reaches the World through us and our unique personalities and gifts.



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HIDDEN MESSAGE OF MATTHEW 25

The chapter starts off with the parable of the Ten Virgins which is a parallel of the church waiting for her King to come. As we all know, half were wise and prepared whilst the other half were unwise and unprepared. The story ends with the following statement:

*¹³ "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour
in which the Son of Man is coming.
Matthew 25:13*

This is a warning and charge to the corporate church as well as the individual Christian. You have to be ready to meet your Maker anytime because you do not know your date of exit. There are those who do know, but they too have to put things in order and prepare to face their Lord. It also means that even though we may be in the same Kingdom community, our judgements will be different based on our decision making. It is a message to all Christians.

The other key message is that we need to ensure we have 'oil for our lamps'. One of the interpretations for this is that we need to ensure our light does not go out due to unwise decision making. Therefore, proper stewardship is essential to our success in maintaining what we have been given.

The second and third parts are directly related to our subject of ministry.

*¹⁴ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.
Matthew 25:14-15*

The principle of this parable applies to all of us. We each have been given a 'bag of talents' or gifts according to our level of ability. We have a period of time to utilise what we have been given and at the end, we will each give an account of how we used the gifts.



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In school even at a young age we all noticed that ‘all men are not created equal’ in terms of ability. The unrighteous education system of this world trains on the principle of performance rather than nurture. So, there is a pecking order created based on the amount of talents perceived rather than on the principle of equal opportunities.

In the Church of Christ every one of us has been given a lamp of oil or a bag of talents to trade with in life and ministry. This is according to His calling and design and our ability:

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:7

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:

Romans 12:6

We do not need to envy or be distracted by what someone else has, we have to concentrate on the cards we were given and make the best use of them. The person who ‘multiplies’ their gift for the sake of the Kingdom is the one that is commended. Note, God is pleased with multiplication or fruitfulness.

¹⁰ I am the true Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit]. ⁸ My Father is glorified and honoured by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.

John 15:1,2,8

One of the cardinal signs of a true disciple is multiplication and fruitfulness in Ministry. You can be successful with life and barren in ministry. One can be on top of the world but at the bottom of the Kingdom. That is one of the meanings of the phrase “the first shall be last and the last shall be first”.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, DO NOT BURY YOUR GIFT!

²⁵ So I was afraid [to lose the talent], and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is your own.’ ³⁰ And throw out the worthless servant into the outer darkness; in that place [of grief and torment] there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

Matthew 25:25,30



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DO WHAT EVER YOU NEED TO DO WITH THIS TEMPORARY GIFT OF LIFE AND TIME SO THAT WHEN WE SWITCH TO PERMANENT ETERNITY, YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE KING!

*¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.
2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NLT*

Now the third and final part of this chapter seems to take a warp leap into the future where the Lord is granting us a privileged preview of what WILL happen on Judgement Day. One of the key distinguishing factors are those who 'ministered to Jesus' and those who didn't.

*³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'
Matthew 25:35-36*

So inherent within the Ministry of Reconciliation is LOVE. To love our neighbour (human beings) is to feed the hungry, house the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and imprisoned. This is part of what it means to 'shine your light'.

Every gift or talent is geared to serve humanity (believers and sinners) so that men may glorify God and acknowledge Him. Anything else is an abuse of the gift.



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THE MINISTRY GIFTS

Everyone, yes, every Believer is gifted from God! There is nothing like a gift less person. Even before we were born, the Lord had named us and called us for a purpose.

*Listen to ^[a]Me, O islands and coastlands,
And pay attention, you peoples from far away.
The LORD has called Me from the womb;
From the body of My mother He has named Me.
Isaiah 49:1*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you [and approved of you as My chosen instrument],
And before you were born I consecrated you [to Myself as My own];
Jeremiah 1:5a*

Let us examine the various passages in the New Testament that provide lists of *gifts and offices and ministries:*

⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly: if [someone has the gift of] prophecy, [let him speak a new message from God to His people] in proportion to the faith possessed; ⁷ if service, in the act of serving; or he who teaches, in the act of teaching; ⁸ or he who encourages, in the act of encouragement; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, ^[a]with diligence; he who shows mercy [in caring for others], with cheerfulness.
Romans 12:6-8

⁶ And there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is the same God who produces all things in all believers [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them]. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [the spiritual illumination and the enabling of the Holy Spirit] for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge and understanding according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit; ¹⁰ and to another the working of ^[a]miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 AMP



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²⁸ So God has appointed and placed in the church [for His own use]: first apostles [chosen by Christ], second prophets [those who foretell the future, those who speak a new message from God to the people], third teachers, then those who work miracles, then those with the gifts of healings, the helpers, the administrators, and speakers in various kinds of [unknown] tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28

¹¹ And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct]

Ephesians 4:11

Please note that there is a big difference between Ministry Gifts and Natural Talents. Everyone on the planet has natural talents but Born-Again Christians have ministry gifts after they become spiritually transformed. Sometimes natural talents get 'anointed' or enhanced through salvation. Other times new gifts emerge that are peculiar for that person's ministry. Do remember that those who are dead in sin have no inheritance in the eternal Kingdom of God so that no matter what they accomplish on Earth does not enter the Heavenly register. That is a sobering thought!

²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], but forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory and majesty of His Father with His angels, and THEN HE WILL REPAY EACH ONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH

WHAT HE HAS DONE.

Matthew 16:26-27

Take the Gifts Test