

As we wrap up our series today it's clear from the parable in Matthew 25 God has something big he wants us to discover and determine and it has nothing to do with our career, family, bank account or retirement plan.

Use It Or Lose It

Matthew 25:14-29

*"While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once."
Luke 19:11 (NIV)*

"After he (Jesus) said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

How To Be Prepared For Jesus' Return

1. Discover My Kingdom _____

"At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property." Matthew 25:14 (GN)

Our Assignment Involves

2. Discover My Kingdom _____

"At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property." Matthew 25:14 (GN)

Knowing Our Assignment Involves Knowing

*"He gave to each one according to his ability."
Matthew 25:15a (GN)*

**Our abilities will always _____ each other
and enable us to _____ our assignment**

3. Determine My Kingdom _____

"The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money." Matthew 25:16-18 (GN)

"The master of the servant told him, You are lazy and good-for-nothing!... You could have at least put my money in the bank, so that I could have earned interest on it." Matthew 25:26-27 (CEV)

4. Determine My Kingdom Assignment, Assets & Area _____

"Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts... God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be... So then, the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' Nor can the head say to the feet, 'Well, I don't need you!' On the contrary, we cannot do without the parts of the body that seem to be weaker." 1 Corinthians 12:12,18,21-22 (GN)

Two Questions To Get Us Started

- ➔ What are my God given talents, abilities and resources - what can I do well – enjoy doing – that I can use to help further the cause of the kingdom on the central coast through Hope Church?
- ➔ What needs aren't getting done that I can help with? What has my name written all over it? What is the Holy Spirit prompting me to do to help expand and further the cause of the kingdom?

Purpose to meet with the Lay Ministry SHAPE team.

Personal Study - Growth Homework

GETTING STARTED

The Bible says we've all been given gifts by God to use to expand and further the cause of the kingdom. What would you say are some of the talents and abilities God has given you?

What would you do for God if you knew you couldn't fail?

What was important for you to hear this weekend? What would you have added?

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 talks about the importance of the body of Christ. What do you think are the most important things we need to learn and take away from this passage?

What are some of the areas of service that are often seen as weaker or less important?

How does 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 speak to and about teamwork – partnership – encouragement – and how we should treat each other, etc?

How does 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 speak to pride, self-righteousness, feeling useless or worthless and our true value in God's kingdom?

GOING DEEPER

Scripture is clear, every believer can and is expected by God to push the ball down the field. God needs us and is depending on everyone of us to further the cause, influence and advance His Kingdom. What are some of the excuses or reasons we can use to not use and employ the gifts, abilities and talents God's given us?

How does our study this weekend and 1 Corinthians 12 eliminate any excuses we may have for not using/employing our talents?

In light of our study this weekend what do you think 1 Corinthians 4:2 means?

If we are going to fulfill our life mission we need to know our Assignment, Asset and Areas we can serve in. Using the SHAPE inventory materials and/or along with Romans 12:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-10, 27-28 explore what your gifts and talents might be.

Where do you think your gifts and talents might fit and help Hope Church to further the cause and influence of the kingdom?

How do you see your interest, desires, abilities, talents all match up with areas you could serve in?

With all of this in mind, what do you think might be your kingdom assignment – your life mission?

As a result of this study what do you need to put into practice – what do you need to do – where do you need to get involved – what needs to change in your life?