

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO INVEST YOUR LIFE Essentials for 21st Century Living

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Part 7 of 9

INTRO: There are three things you can do with your life.

1. Waste it
2. Spend it
3. Invest it

To invest your life means to use it in a way that outlasts it, to make a difference for eternity, to leave a legacy. You were not put on this earth just to be a consumer. You were put on this earth to be a contributor. That contribution you make with your life, your talents, your abilities, the Bible calls your ministry.

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTING YOUR LIFE

Matt 25:14-30

1. OWNERSHIP:

EVERYTHING I HAVE REALLY BELONGS TO GOD.

You brought nothing into this world when you were born and you’re taking nothing out of this world when you leave.

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.” (vs 14)

2. ALLOCATION:

GOD HAS GIVEN ME SOME UNIQUE TALENTS

Studies have shown that there are between 600-800 talents, and that every person has at least 200 different talents.

“To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability.” (vs 15)

Everybody gets something, but our talents differ. There are no “no-talent” people.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” Rom. 12:6 (NIV)

3. ACCOUNTABILITY:

GOD EXPECTS ME TO USE MY TALENTS.

“Each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Rom 14:12 (NIV)

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“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts.”
(vs 19)

Everyday we get to choose how we’re going to live our lives. Every one of us, we get to make that choice. But there will come a day in all of our lives when we explain to God the choices we’ve made about how we live our lives.

4. UTILIZATION: IT IS WRONG FOR ME TO BURY WHAT GOD GAVE ME.

- 1st man doubled his talents (vs 16)
- 2nd man doubled his talents (vs 17)
- 3rd man buried his talents (vs 18)

The master’s reaction: (vs 26-27) “you wicked, lazy servant”

Most of us when we hear the word “wicked” we think “murder” or “rape” or “abuse.” But look at what God calls wicked in this story. He says it is wicked to not use the talent that you were given to make a difference in this world, to never make a contribution, to bury it, to put it out of sight and pretend it’s not there.

Two insights in this part of the passage:

1. You can’t please God by playing it safe. To use your talent you have to take a risk. “Without faith, it’s impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6
2. God would rather have you try to serve Him, make an attempt at least and fail and fall flat on your face than do nothing at all.

5. MOTIVATION: IT IS FEAR THAT KEEPS ME FROM USING MY TALENT.

“I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.” (vs 25)

There are three kinds of fear that will keep you from developing your talents.

1. Self-doubt
2. Self-consciousness “The fear of man is a snare” Prov. 29:25
3. Self-pity

6. APPLICATION: IF I DON’T USE IT, I LOSE IT.

“Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents.” (vs 28)

Have you ever noticed in life that the people who are more talented seem to get more talented?

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“I will equip you with all you need for doing my will.” Hebrews 13:21

The way to invest my talents is through: Serving other people unselfishly and God will multiply it!

7. COMPENSATION:

IF I USE MY TALENT WISELY I WILL BE REWARDED.

“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!’” (vs 23)

Three rewards that God gives from this verse:

1. Affirmation of God. He says “Well done, good and faithful servant”
2. God’s promotion. He says, “You’ve been faithful with a few things, I’ll put you in charge of many things.”
3. Celebration. He says, “Come and share your master’s happiness.”

Question: When are you going to “Move into Ministry”?

“Only one life will soon be past.

Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Matthew 25:24,25: “Then the man who had received one talent came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven’t sown and gathering where you haven’t scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.’”

He’s blaming his boss! He’s justifying Himself. He’s saying, “It’s your fault sir that I failed.” The reason I failed is because you were so unreasonable.

Question: “Who are you blaming for your lack of serving God?”

Quit blaming other people. You are as close to God as you choose to be. You are as spiritual as you want to be. If you’re close to God it’s because you’ve chosen to be close to God.