7/13/20 **Devotional**

Let us contemplate the words of Jesus.

*“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.” Matthew 25:21, 23.*

Is coming in first place in a couch potato contest what God desires for our lives? God created us to glorify Him, not ourselves? We are called to accomplish something during our span of life. We are called to live for something and someone greater than ourselves? God created us for significance. God desires that our lives count for something? Are you reaching your potential as a follower of Jesus Christ?

In our story from the Gospel of Matthew, a master goes on a journey and leaves his servants in charge of his property. He gives five talents to the first servant, two talents to the next servant, and one talent to the third, each according to his ability. God gives talents and abilities to everyone.

After a time, the master returns and asks his servants to give an account of what they have done with their talents. The master is pleased with the first two servants. They invested their abilities and used them productively. The master is not happy with the third servant. The servant makes excuses, and accuses the master of being hard and unpredictable. He buries his talent and doesn’t attempt to use or invest it. The master takes the talent away and gives it to another servant. Then the master has the servant thrown out into the darkness.

I believe the story is saying that our lives matter, they count for something; God doesn’t want us to waste our lives. What does a significant life look like? That’s what’s surprising. Significance comes in all sizes. There is no one standard, no blueprint or template. Our lives are unique. God knows our capabilities. God knows what we can and cannot do. There is a fairness in the economy of God. God doesn’t hold us to a standard that we cannot reach. Are you living a significant life?

Living a life of significance means that our lives are answerable to God. We will be held accountable for the stewardship of our lives. The truth is that God has already given each of us something to work with. We don’t enter this life empty handed. God has imparted to us a mind, a heart and a spirit. We have freedom to make choices and set priorities. We have the ability to perceive needs and address them. We have gifts and talents. God passionately wants us to achieve something in the limited time that He has given us on this earth.

Living a significant life means that our view of God affects how we perceive ourselves. Your view of God influences your decisions and priorities. The first and second servants respected the master; they trusted his word, they trusted his mercy and love, they obeyed him. Even when the master was gone, they proved faithful and enterprising. They knew this was a chance to do something significant.

Living a life that counts for something means that what we do in life has eternal implications. Your influence stretches beyond this earthly life. It touches other people for generations after we are gone. Our life has an immeasurable impact on this world. When we invest our lives glorifying God, God will honor our investment and multiply our efforts beyond anything we can know or imagine. You never know when your seemingly small task is actually a part of God’s big plan.

There are opportunities all around us – in our neighborhood, our community, our church and even in politics. Ultimately only God can see the big picture and hear the complete sound. Only God can see how our puzzle piece fits into the whole puzzle. God calls us not just to survive but to thrive, not to lead lives of mediocrity, but to lead lives of excellence. God calls us to face challenges and to give our most, not our least.

Herman Cain, CEO and president of Godfather’s Pizza, was raised in poverty. He credits his hard-working father for his success in life. He also received inspiration from a poem which he learned at Morehouse college. This poem guided Herman through the ups and downs of his life.

*“Life is just a minute, only sixty seconds in it, forced upon you, can’t refuse it, didn’t seek it, didn’t choose it, but it’s up to you to use it. You must suffer if you lose it, give an account if you abuse it, just a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it.”*

God’s word says your life matters; it counts for something. “*God, here I am, open my eyes and my ears, my mind and heart. Use me for something significant, that you may be pleased and that you will be glorified.”*

God’s blessings be with you,

Rev. Alan W. Deuel