

Demonstrating the Kingdom here

When I think about making a difference I think about it from three perspectives:

Stewardship

Generosity

Multiplication

The parable of the talents speaks to our responsibility to make a difference with good stewardship of what we have been given. The parable discusses the master going away and leaving his servants in charge of some of his resources. When he comes back he asks the servants to give an account of what they have done with those resources. We all know the story, 2 servants doubled the resources and 1 hid the resource (talent) in the ground and did nothing with it because he was afraid.

The verse in Luke 19:13 has several translations that speak to this:

...Put this money to work, he said, until I come back.

...Invest this for me while I am gone.

...Engage in business until I come.

...Occupy until I come.

We are called to use what we have in our hand to occupy until He comes. Until the Lord returns to the earth we should be doing business, conducting trade, investing and occupying the business mountain until He returns.

We can also make a difference with our generosity. When I think of generosity, our responsibility as His children I think of Matthew 25:35.

For I was hungry and you have me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The disciples ask Jesus but Lord when did we do these things for you (paraphrased) and He says to them "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

We are called to occupy until He comes and take care of those around us. We are all brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus and He expects us to take care of one another. If I have enough then what can I give to someone else to help them?

As we develop good stewardship and occupy the business mountain and generate profits, we have a greater ability to care for those around us. A greater ability to make a difference in our local communities and across the nations. What burden has God placed on your heart and how are you making a difference in that area? Is it the homeless, the children, the lost, the sick, the widows and orphans at the city gates?

It says in Jeremiah 29:7 – [“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray for the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.](#) We are called to make a difference in our city and to help it prosper.”

Lastly I want to talk about the multiplication principle. It says in Matthew 6:33 – [“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things shall be added unto you.”](#) I believe once we understand this seeking first His kingdom and tackling the addition principle then we can move onto the multiplication principle. The Lord was referring to this in the parable of the talents and when the servant didn’t multiply what he was given, it was taken away from him.

In 2 Peter 2-10 it says [“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord”](#). It goes on to say that we get to partake in the divine nature and that if we possess these qualities in increasing measure... What is increasing measure? Multiplication. As we increase our brotherly kindness, goodness, self-control and all the characteristics mentioned in these verses than we escape the corruption in the world. We also participate in the divine nature and protect ourselves from becoming unproductive and ineffective in our knowledge of Christ. We participate in the grace and peace being multiplied to us!

It’s important that the body of Christ mature, move past addition and move into multiplication so we might see the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ. The population is multiplying and we must learn to multiply our resources and efforts that we might preach the gospel of the kingdom so all will hear it.

How can you make a difference with what you have in your hand?

How can you move from addition to multiplication?

How can you help your city prosper?

Ask the Lord, He will show you!

Additional Comments and Verses:

Matt 5:

13: You are the salt of the earth.

14 You are the light of the world.

John 14:12b

and they will do even greater things than these

James 1:27 27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Isaiah 61 (NIV) - The Year of the Lord's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,

because the Lord has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives

and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—

to bestow on them a crown of beauty

instead of ashes, the oil of joy

instead of mourning, and a garment of praise

instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

a planting of the Lord

for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 58

6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice

and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free

and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Genesis 12:2

Blessed to be a blessing

COMPASSION verses:

Matt 9:35-38 – The Workers are Few

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matt 14/Mark 6:34 – Before he feeds the 5000

³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Luke 7:13

When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."

Matt 8

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”

Matt 20:34

Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

Luke 10:33-34

“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.”

—> ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “*The one who had mercy on him.*”