

## ***Walking in Our Divine Assignment: How to Be Successful***

### **I. HAVING A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SUCCESS**

- A. God invites everyone to be great in His kingdom. He put within each of us a longing to be great and successful. We cannot repent of this longing, but repent of seeking after it in a wrong way.  
*<sup>19</sup>Whoever breaks...these commandments...shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom... (Mt. 5:19)*
- B. There is much confusion, pain, and disillusionment related to what a great and successful life is. We need a biblical definition of what success is. Our humanistic culture defines success in terms of receiving recognition from people and being in a position of influence with great finances.
- C. God invites us to greatness without regard to our outward achievements or the size of our ministry impact. It is based on the development of our heart in love, meekness, and revelation.  
1. We are to focus on being great in His sight rather than in the sight of men.  
2. It is based on our heart responses not on natural giftings and resources.  
3. It will not be fully manifest until the age to come.
- D. God gave each person an assignment that will lead to their greatness with eternal rewards. This is based on the capacities that He gave each mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. We will be rewarded according to what God entrusted to us. We are not accountable for what we do not have. Some have despair over what they do not have. They neglect to use what they do have.  
*<sup>14</sup>If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor. 3:14)*
- E. The definition of a great and successful life is found in doing God's will and in hearing Jesus say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." All can succeed in their God-given assignment.  
*<sup>21</sup>Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord... (Mt. 25:21)*
- F. In the parable of the faithful steward (Mt. 25:14-30), Jesus called us to focus on three things: to walk in the grace to be ***faithful*** (diligence) and ***good*** (motives) with a ***servant spirit*** (humility) in our life assignment even when it is difficult (v. 24) and small (v. 21).
1. ***Good*** points to the goals and motivations with which things are done. It refers to the sincere intentions to love God and people and to do God's will in each area of our life.
  2. ***Faithful*** emphasizes the diligence in our work. It refers to the follow-through in our intentions to do good in the face of pressure, difficulty, mundaneness, and temptation. To be considered faithful requires that we are consistent for years. Our best faithfulness is flawed, but His evaluation of it is "human friendly" as He edits our life by grace.
  3. ***Servant*** refers to the willingness to deny our personal agenda, honor, and comfort.

- G. One stumbling block to a life of greatness is that the pathway to it is to be diligent and humble in context to smallness with difficulty. We imagine that we would be faithful and humble if God gave us big and easy things to do.
- H. We must continually re-align ourselves to greatness and success on God's terms as defined by Jesus. He calls us to greatness that is based on a life focused on doing good, being faithful, and living with a servant spirit in context to smallness and difficulty.
- I. Some years ago, I decided to lock into these three life goals given by Jesus in Matthew 25:21 or in other words, to seek to walk in the grace of God to do good (to love), to be faithful (diligent), and to have a servant spirit (humility). It gives our life an anchor to settle on these life goals.
- J. Greatness is within the reach of all in the grace of God. Jesus is committed to our long term greatness. He has a tailor made plan for our eternal success. We need to cooperate with it.
- K. In this parable, Jesus corrected the idea that our work only matters if it impacts many people. Our assignment (sphere of influence) may be small in man's eyes, but it is important in God's eyes. It moves Him so much that He rewards us for it.

<sup>21</sup>***You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. (Mt. 25:21)***

<sup>17</sup>***Well done...you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. (Lk. 19:17)***

1. ***Few things:*** In the perfect will of God, most have a small assignment. ***It is not a penalty.*** We must see the dignity of the small work that God entrusts to us. Almost everyone has a small assignment (touching less than 10,000 people on a regular basis). I believe that 99.9% of the body of Christ has a small individual assignment. Corporately, as we work together in the body of Christ, we can make a big impact in our generation. In the perfect will of God, most have a very small assignment. ***It is not a penalty.***
  2. ***Many things:*** There is coming a great exchange from "few things" in this age to "many things" in the age to come. Our assignment in the Millennium is based on the size of our heart not the size of our individual ministry impact.
- L. ***I will make you ruler (Mt. 25:21):*** This is an essential component to a life of success and greatness. Jesus set before His people eternal rewards. Some downplay this to their harm. They imagine that they don't care about eternal rewards. It is because they do not understand them.
  - M. The saints will reign with Jesus in the age to come related to their diligence and humility in this age (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:17).

<sup>26</sup>***He who...keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. (Rev. 2:26)***

- N. ***Enter into the joy:*** The saints will have great joy ruling in partnership with Jesus. Jesus rewards us with the privilege of close partnership with Him. Our desire for rewards is because we want to be with Him where He is, doing what He is doing. We want to be involved in the things Jesus calls precious and to work closely with the One we love in ruling the nations.

***<sup>21</sup>I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)***

1. We can receive tokens of the joy of Jesus saying to us “well done” even now. We have joy by knowing that He values our efforts to serve and that our choices matter to Him.
2. With this revelation, every hour of our day is sacred. Boredom has no place in this perspective on life.

- O. We are motivated best when we see how important our work is in the eyes of God, knowing that He esteems it so highly that He eternally rewards us for it. It is essential to evaluate our work and life assignment in the right way. Those with a wrong evaluation of their work often lack diligence. Those with a right evaluation are far more diligent.

***<sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, do it heartily [diligently], as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>24</sup>knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (Col. 3:23-24)***

## II. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING RIGHT EXPECTATIONS

- A. People get discouraged if they have a wrong perspective on what they are supposed to be doing. They are told to pursue greatness in their life and they often misinterpret it in terms of having a large individual ministry impact. This causes despair to those envisioning only a big ministry.
- B. They get disillusioned and offended by the smallness of their ministry, concluding that they have been lied to. This pain can be avoided by knowing that God is pleased by our love and labors.
- C. Hope refers to our expectations. If our expectations are only focused on having a ministry impact that is affirmed and recognized by others, then we are vulnerable to becoming heart sick with disappointment. If we are focused on walking in God’s grace to do good and be faithful with a servant spirit, then we can be confident this is within the reach of everyone.

***<sup>12</sup>Hope deferred makes the heart sick... (Prov. 13:12)***

- D. We must live in agreement with God’s definition of success. When we let our expectations be formed by what the Scripture says, we can live with hope or expectations that are not deferred. Unfulfilled expectations cause people to give up in disillusionment with a sense of futility and rejection. This can be avoided by agreeing with biblical expectations.
- E. Many need to expose the fantasies and vain imaginations about how big their individual ministry impact will be in man’s eyes and how much recognition they will receive from it in this age.

### III. A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: KEY AREAS TO FOCUS ON

- A. God is focused on the size of our heart responses whereas we are usually focused on the size of our ministry impact. Our individual impact may not be large numerically, but we can be successful before God by growing deep in love, being faithful, and walking with a servant spirit.
- B. ***Doing Good:*** We walk in the two great commandments to love God and people (Mt. 22:37-39)  
<sup>37</sup>*You shall love the LORD...with all your heart...*<sup>38</sup>*This is the first and great commandment.*  
<sup>39</sup>*And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt. 22:37-39)*
1. ***Heart connect with God:*** Develop a vibrant spirituality which includes prayer, fasting, talking to God, walking in obedience to God's will, and growing in understanding and faith in God's Word. We seek to see the first commandment have first place in our life.
  2. ***Building godly relationships:*** Seek to develop deep relationships with few by mutually sharing with an open heart and the investment of time and love. Start with your family. Do not wait for people to invest in you. Rather, take initiative to invest in them.  
<sup>24</sup>*A man who has friends must himself be friendly... (Prov. 18:24)*
- C. ***Being faithful in our assignment:*** We commit to being faithful or diligent in our life assignment. This includes our preparation, skill development, and work related to our life assignment. Our assignment involves diligently preparing ourselves to help others.
1. God gives each individual various specific assignments. These assignments may be in the home, marketplace, church, neighborhood, or in various areas of society.
  2. We work hard with diligence as we make disciples, release God's kingdom ways in whatever place we are by encouraging people, winning the lost, praying for the sick, etc.
- D. ***Servant spirit:*** Develop humility toward God and people. We cultivate a servant spirit that sees others as important. We treat them with kindness and generosity with our words and resources.  
<sup>3</sup>*In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* <sup>4</sup>*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3-4)*
- E. Doing God's will involves denying our own agenda. The God who orchestrated the crucifixion of Jesus is orchestrating ours right now. He also orchestrates our resurrection.  
<sup>27</sup>*Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Lk. 14:27)*
- F. We live with a teachable spirit by knowing how much we need to learn.
- G. ***Summary:*** We aim to go deep in God. We focus on growing in the understanding of God and His Word, growing in relationships, discipling a few people, and developing our skills. We trust God for the size of our ministry impact. We rejoice in and trust His will, timing, and way.