

A life that counts grows out of an understanding of the principle of accountability. My desire is to excite people about living with the day they stand before Jesus firmly fixed in their minds.

Introduction: Don't miss your chance

For all the sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: "it might have been."

Hebrews 11:6 (NASB95)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Do you believe that God is a greater rewarder than this world? If you do, why do you keep seeking the rewards of the world?

and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:7 asks a question of the arrogant Corinthians: *“what do you have that you did not receive?”*

The answer clearly is NOTHING!

Paul goes on: *“And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”*

Last week, we heard David confess this same truth.

1 Chronicles 29:11, *“Both riches and honor come from you. . .and it is at your discretion that people are made great and given strength.*

1 Chronicles 29:13 *“Everything we have has come from you.”*

A talent of gold is a great deal of money. It is the equivalent to 20 years wages and this wealthy man gave 5 talents to one slave, 2 talents to another slave, and 1 talent to a third slave. The basis of the distribution of talents was *each according to his ability*. The owner demonstrates a deep knowledge of each of his servants and rather than overwhelming a servant beyond his ability, he gave a reasonable portion to each according to his ability.

The obvious, though unstated goal was that the servant should invest the resources so that he could present a *return on investment* when the master returned.

The interpretation of this parable is so clear we cannot miss it.

Jesus is away from this earth. He is coming again, but in his absence, he has entrusted everything he has to

of God. (1 Cor 4:2) in Ephesians 3:2 he says that the stewardship of God's grace was given to me for you.

He has given you a special gift so that you can serve others – 1 Peter 4:10-11

He has made all grace about to you, *so you will have an abundance for every good deed.* (2 Cor 9:8-11)

All the *stuff* you have is so that you will have abundance for every good deed.

II.

principle 2: We have a choice as to how to use what God has entrusted to us – 1 Peter 4:10-11

We can either be a consumer or we can be a servant.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NASB95)

and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Even your body doesn't belong to you, it belongs to God! – 1 Cor 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB95)

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

We have a limited amount of time – John 9:4, Gal 6:10

B. Are we building with the right materials?
12-14

C. Will our lives stand the test? The reward
14-15, Matt 25:19-30

Conclusion: What does a life that will stand the test look like?

Faithful – 1 Cor 4:1-2, Col 3:22-24

Generous – Luke 6

Loving and wise – Phil 1:9-11

Influencing others for eternity

- What did you hear today? What is your next step in becoming a doer of the word?
- Take the list of resources you made last week. Journal with each one of them: How have you used them for God's glory and God's kingdom? What changes does God want you to make?
- How have you been laying up treasures in heaven? (Matt 6:19-34)
- What is the first thing you need to change?