

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE

SPRING PURSUIT

BEING WATCHFUL IN LIFE AND FAITHFUL IN SERVICE

Session Six —Ministry Reading

Being Faithful in Service

Verses for Pray-Reading:

Matt. 25:21 His master said to him, Well [done,] good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Ministry Reading:

The Lord gives talents to His servants mainly according to their ability. Today too much attention is given to ability. Ability is not talent. We cannot do anything by ability alone. However, we should not take ability lightly. Ability determines the talents given. It is God who gives the ability, which in turn determines the talents. We ourselves cannot control how much ability we have. Therefore, the ones who received five and two talents should not feel proud and self-satisfied. Neither should the one who received one talent feel ashamed, disappointed, or envious. Their abilities and their gifts are all ordained by God. Today the tendency is for believers to prefer the greater ability over the smaller ability. This is fleshly activity. We must remember that grace is given by God for us to do His business. We need only to do His business according to the measure of God's gift. This will reduce division and strife in the church, for we understand that gifts vary according to ability.

Verse 21: "His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master." If we read only verse 20, it would seem that the reward

depends solely on the gaining of other talents. However, we can see clearly in verse 21 that the reward is based primarily on being good and faithful. Therefore, we can all be good and faithful, whether we have received five talents, two talents, or only one talent. To be "good and faithful" does not refer to being a good Christian. It refers to being a good and faithful slave. The "other five talents" does not indicate success. It indicates the goodness and the faithfulness of the slave....That is why offering only a cup of cold water in the name of the Lord (Matt. 10:42) will be rewarded for faithfulness. To be faithful is simply to be wholly for the Lord. Those who are faithful will receive the reward. Even though we are working, we need to ask ourselves, "For whom are we working?" Many times our desire for success is merely to gain the other five talents, not knowing that all successes that are not according to the Lord are still wood, hay, and stubble. The Lord desires that we be faithful. "Well done" is the Lord's praise. We want only to hear the Lord say, "Well done." We endure and suffer because we look forward to this "well done." The Lord's "well done" is priceless. (*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 1) Vol. 15: Study on Matthew, Chapter 27*)