

Use It or Lose It

Int.

1. Aim: To show that if we do not use our talents we lose them.
2. Text Mt. 25:29 = God's law of disuse "For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away."
 - a. The things we use will become more valuable
 - b. The things we fail to use will be taken away
3. This is the principle clearly taught in the parable of the Talents - Mt. 25:14-30
4. Plan of Lesson:
 - a. Explain the parable
 - b. Then explain the principle of "Use it or lose it"
 - c. Make application to our life - we must get to work!!

Discussion

I. THE PARABLE

- A. Parable of the talents - Mt. 25:14-30
 1. Responsibilities imposed - He was going to a far country - he called his own servants - delivered unto them his goods.
 2. Different talents given Five Two One
 3. How they used the talents Five = five Two = two One = 0
 4. "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey." Mt. 25:14

5. Accounting for use of talents

- a. The master returned and asked for a reckoning
- b. The five and two talent men were praised - Well Done
- c. One Talent Man:
 - (1) Accused his master of being hard and unreasonable
 - (2) Excuses himself for not accepting responsibility. He said he was afraid.
 - (3) Assured himself that he had not wronged his master. "Thou hast thine own."

6. Rewards and punishment

- a. Rewards for the righteous - 5 and 2 talent man
- b. Punishment for the 1 talent man
 - (1) Master charged him with being wicked - He falsely accused him of being too hard and he had not accepted the responsibility laid on him.
 - (2) Condemned him as a slothful servant - He knew what to do and refused to do it. "Thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed.: v. 26
 - (3) Master sentenced this servant -talent was taken away from him. He was relieved of all responsibility, which was to say he was no longer a servant. His talent was given to the one who had ten talents.

7. V. 29 "Use it or lose it."

B. This is very similar to the parable of the Pounds - Lk. 19:12-27

II. PRINCIPLE OF USE IT OR LOSE IT

A. Verses

1. Mt. 25:29 "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."
2. Lk. 19:26 "For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him."
3. Lk. 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."
4. Mt. 13:12 "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."

B. The talent was taken away from the one talent man

1. Jesus taught that failure to use what we have will cause us to lose it.
2. This is God's law of disuse.
3. Those things we fail to use will be taken away
4. This is true both in the physical realm and in the spiritual kingdom
5. Illustrations:
 - a. A farm that is not used will grow up in weeds and become very poor. A vacant house will decay much faster than one occupied. Insurance companies realize this so they have higher insurance premiums on vacant houses.

b. A car that is not driven will gradually decay. A man bought a car from a lady for \$25 that was 25 years old, but had only been driven a few miles. When he went into the garage to get it he found: 4 flat tires, a dead battery, upholstery that was deteriorating, and a rusty frame. When the motor finally started it blew the muffler off and sounded like the engine was going into orbit. A car that is not used will decay.

C. His talent was given to the Five talent man

1. To every one that hath shall be given
2. Faithful improvement of what we have will entitle us to more and greater blessings.
3. To use is to have
4. To possess something means to put it to use, to develop it, to make the most of it, to identify ourselves with it.
5. What we use we have; and all else is but a seeming possession.
6. Mt. 13:12 "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."
7. God always gives to him who demonstrates that he has the capacity for more.

III. APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE TO US

A. We better get to work and stay at work

1. Practice makes perfect
2. What we do not use, we lose
3. The unused talent was taken away.
4. The things we use will become more valuable, and things that we fail to use will be taken away.

B. We all receive talents

1. But it is according to our abilities
2. Some receive 5 others 2 and some 1.
3. We cannot complain that we are no good to the church.

C. Examples:

1. Bible School Teacher

- a. Use our talents in teaching and you'll improve
- b. Fail to teach and you'll get worse
- c. Heb. 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

2. Song Leader - use your talents and they will improve

3. Preaching

4. Visiting and personal work

5. Attendance at worship services - the longer a person stays away from worship the harder it is to return. The heart becomes hardened and insensitive to spiritual truths.
 6. Give and you can give more - Lk. 6:38 The more we give the more we are able to give. Those who refuse to use their financial means by giving to the Lord's work will soon find themselves so overcome with bills, debts, etc., that they are unable to give.
 7. Bible Study. The more we read and study the Bible the better our knowledge. If we fail to study and read the Bible then we will lose that knowledge. People lose their memory because they do not use it. One of the best ways to use our knowledge is to teach others.
- D. More people rust out than wear out.
- E. Our reward is dependent upon our being good and faithful
1. It does not matter whether we have little or much talent or ability.
 2. The reward depends on how we use the opportunities we have.
 3. The man who received two talents was told to enter the joys of his lord the same as the man who had five talents.
 4. Both were called good and faithful.
 5. Their goodness and faithfulness did not depend upon the number of talents they returned to their master, but upon the honest and faithful use of the talents which they had.

CONCLUSION

1. The major point in Mt. 25 is about the coming of Christ
 - a. The first parable is about the 10 virgins - v. 1-12
 - b. Verse 13 is exhorting us to watch "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
 - c. After this we have the parable of the Talents - v. 14-30
 - d. An obvious lesson we can see is that to watch we must be a faithful servant.
2. We are stewards of the abilities and opportunities God has given to us.
3. I Cor. 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."
4. We learn from this parable of the talents that:
 - a. We must use what we have and we will receive more.
 - b. If we don't use it, we lose it.
 - c. Our ability to serve in this life becomes less and less as we pass by opportunities and offer excuses for not using them.
 - d. The Lord never requires more of us than we are able to do. He knows our ability and demands of us what we are able to do.

Bibliography

A.L.C. 6/13/71 p. 156, 8/7/52 p. 184, 3/20/49 p. 78