

SCRIPTURES FOR 1/21/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Mark 12:29-30

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Matthew 25:20-30

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should

have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

" 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

John 21:4-7

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

Luke 5:5-6

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

Note to LG Leaders: All items in *italics* are FYI and not to be read aloud – Ed

INTRODUCTION:

This was part 2 of Jeff’s definition of Lordship as regards stewardship.

Q: Before you submit to Jesus’ lordship, what is His relationship to you? (*HINT: Did you have to submit to feudal lords in order for them to be your lord?*)

Q: What did Jeff mean about being a “Christian chameleon?”

DIG DEEPER:

(*Mark 1:29-30*) This is quoted from Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The Jewish people considered this commandment so important, that they literally followed the subsequent verses, reading it every day, day and night. They reminded themselves at least twice each day that they were in submission to God’s lordship.

Q: Do you think this kind of repetition would help you to submit or desensitize you to submission?

APPLICATION:

(*Matthew 25:19-30*) CONCLUSIONS:

- ◆ God gives us blessings of time, talents, and treasures to use in submission to him. (v.20)
Q: What has He given you? (*make a list: time, talents, treasures*)
- ◆ God gives us each different gifts (vv.20,22,24).
Q: Do you ever feel jealous of the gifts of others?
Q: Do you have gifts you don’t think God can use?
- ◆ God elicits different responses from each of us (vv.20,22,25)
Q: Share a time when you could use your gifts for God and/or a time when you refused or held back.
Q: What was the result?
- ◆ God holds us accountable for our stewardship of His gifts (v.19)
Q: Do you believe this? What is your response?
- ◆ God rewards us for developing our talents (v.21,23)
Q: What is the danger of knowing this? (*wrong motives?*)
Q: Are there also dangers to the converse (i.e., not developing our talents leads to punishment)?
Q: What is one way you could start developing your talents today?

Jeff said, “Some of us don’t need more Bible studies, but need to go out and DO truth.”

Q: What do you think he meant by this?

(*John 21:4-7*) First, no fish, then tons of fish. With Jesus, fish; without Jesus, no fish.

Q: When he figured out who it was, why do you think Peter referred to Him as “Lord” instead of “Jesus?” (*HINT: How would you feel if you were once again caught giving up on Jesus?*)

Q: How do you think Peter knew it was Jesus? (*HINT: see Luke 5:5-6*) (*Jesus obviously had a sense of humor, but in case someone STILL didn’t get it, Jesus called Peter, Simon – the name he went by when Jesus first met him on the Sea of Galilee when they had the first miraculous catch.*)

CONCLUSION:

Both times the fishermen, later fishers of men, drew their nets, the blessings of God were immediately evident. All stewardship is infinitely more effective with Christ. Let’s look for the net full of fish and let’s haul it in.