

First Things FIRST

Prioritizing God in Identity, Money, & Mission

DR. BRIAN BENNETT | LEAD PASTOR



SERMON NOTES
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**"I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE
VINEDRESSER. 2 EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT
DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT HE TAKES AWAY, AND
EVERY BRANCH THAT DOES BEAR FRUIT HE
PRUNES, THAT IT MAY BEAR MORE FRUIT. 3
ALREADY YOU ARE CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE
WORD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU.**

[JOHN 15:1-5 ESV]

**4 ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH
CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES
IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU
ABIDE IN ME. 5 I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES. WHOEVER ABIDES IN ME AND I IN
HIM, HE IT IS THAT BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR APART
FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. "**

[JOHN 15:1-5 ESV]

**GOD MATH PUTS GOD FIRST BY FAITH
AND MULTIPLIES IMPACT.**

[JOHN 15:1-5 ESV]

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GOD IS THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM.

[MATTHEW 25:1-13 ESV]

"THEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE TEN VIRGINS WHO TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND WENT TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM. 2 FIVE OF THEM WERE FOOLISH, AND FIVE WERE WISE. 3 FOR WHEN THE FOOLISH TOOK THEIR LAMPS, THEY TOOK NO OIL WITH THEM, 4 BUT THE WISE TOOK FLASKS OF OIL WITH THEIR LAMPS. 5 AS THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND SLEPT.

[MATTHEW 25:1-13 ESV]

6 BUT AT MIDNIGHT THERE WAS A CRY, 'HERE IS THE BRIDEGROOM! COME OUT TO MEET HIM.' 7 THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS ROSE AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. 8 AND THE FOOLISH SAID TO THE WISE, 'GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.' 9 BUT THE WISE ANSWERED, SAYING, 'SINCE THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US AND FOR YOU, GO RATHER TO THE DEALERS AND BUY FOR YOURSELVES.'

[MATTHEW 25:1-13 ESV]

10 AND WHILE THEY WERE GOING TO BUY, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE MARRIAGE FEAST, AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT. 11 AFTERWARD THE OTHER VIRGINS CAME ALSO, SAYING, 'LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US.' 12 BUT HE ANSWERED, 'TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.' 13 WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR.

[MATTHEW 25:1-13 ESV]

OUR IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST, NOT:

- **WHAT WE DO**
- **WHAT WE HAVE**
- **WHAT WE'VE DONE**
- **WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US**

**4 BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF THE
GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, 5 EVEN WHEN
WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES, MADE US ALIVE
TOGETHER WITH CHRIST—BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED— 6 AND RAISED US UP WITH HIM AND SEATED
US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST
JESUS, 7 SO THAT IN THE COMING AGES HE MIGHT
SHOW THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE**

[EPHESIANS 2:4-10 ESV]

**IN KINDNESS TOWARD US IN CHRIST JESUS. 8 FOR
BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH.
AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT
OF GOD, 9 NOT A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO
ONE MAY BOAST. 10 FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR
GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED
BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.**

[EPHESIANS 2:4-10 ESV]

**GOD EXPECTS US TO MULTIPLY WHAT HE
HAS GIVEN US.**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

"14 'FOR IT WILL BE LIKE A MAN GOING ON A JOURNEY, WHO CALLED HIS SERVANTS AND ENTRUSTED TO THEM HIS PROPERTY. 15 TO ONE HE GAVE FIVE TALENTS, TO ANOTHER TWO, TO ANOTHER ONE, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY. THEN HE WENT AWAY. 16 HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE FIVE TALENTS WENT AT ONCE AND TRADED WITH THEM, AND HE MADE FIVE TALENTS MORE.

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

17 SO ALSO HE WHO HAD THE TWO TALENTS MADE TWO TALENTS MORE. 18 BUT HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE ONE TALENT WENT AND DUG IN THE GROUND AND HID HIS MASTER'S MONEY. 19 NOW AFTER A LONG TIME THE MASTER OF THOSE SERVANTS CAME AND SETTLED ACCOUNTS WITH THEM. 20 AND HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE FIVE TALENTS CAME FORWARD, BRINGING FIVE TALENTS MORE, SAYING, 'MASTER,

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**YOU DELIVERED TO ME FIVE TALENTS; HERE, I HAVE
MADE FIVE TALENTS MORE.' 21 HIS MASTER SAID TO
HIM, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.
YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A LITTLE; I WILL SET
YOU OVER MUCH. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR
MASTER.' 22 AND HE ALSO WHO HAD THE TWO
TALENTS CAME FORWARD, SAYING, 'MASTER, YOU
DELIVERED TO ME TWO TALENTS;**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**HERE, I HAVE MADE TWO TALENTS MORE.' 23 HIS
MASTER SAID TO HIM, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND
FAITHFUL SERVANT. YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER
A LITTLE; I WILL SET YOU OVER MUCH. ENTER INTO
THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.' 24 HE ALSO WHO HAD
RECEIVED THE ONE TALENT CAME FORWARD,
SAYING, 'MASTER, I KNEW YOU TO BE A HARD MAN,
REAPING WHERE YOU DID NOT SOW,**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**AND GATHERING WHERE YOU SCATTERED NO SEED,
25 SO I WAS AFRAID, AND I WENT AND HID YOUR
TALENT IN THE GROUND. HERE, YOU HAVE WHAT IS
YOURS.' 26 BUT HIS MASTER ANSWERED HIM, 'YOU
WICKED AND SLOTHFUL SERVANT! YOU KNEW THAT
I REAP WHERE I HAVE NOT SOWN AND GATHER
WHERE I SCATTERED NO SEED? 27 THEN YOU OUGHT
TO HAVE INVESTED MY MONEY WITH THE BANKERS,**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**AND AT MY COMING I SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED
WHAT WAS MY OWN WITH INTEREST. 28 SO TAKE
THE TALENT FROM HIM AND GIVE IT TO HIM WHO
HAS THE TEN TALENTS. 29 FOR TO EVERYONE WHO
HAS WILL MORE BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE AN
ABUNDANCE. BUT FROM THE ONE WHO HAS NOT,
EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**30 AND CAST THE WORTHLESS SERVANT INTO THE
OUTER DARKNESS. IN THAT PLACE THERE WILL BE
WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.”**

[MATTHEW 25:14-30 ESV]

**GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TIME, TALENT, AND
TREASURE TO MULTIPLY FOR HIM.**

"14 'BUT WHO AM I, AND WHO ARE MY PEOPLE, THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS THIS? EVERYTHING COMES FROM YOU, AND WE HAVE GIVEN YOU ONLY WHAT COMES FROM YOUR HAND"

[1 CHRONICLES 29:14 NIV]

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"23 WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK HEARTILY, AS FOR THE LORD AND NOT FOR MEN, 24 KNOWING THAT FROM THE LORD YOU WILL RECEIVE THE INHERITANCE AS YOUR REWARD. YOU ARE SERVING THE LORD CHRIST. "

[COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 ESV]

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"6 AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD DRAW NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM. "

[HEBREWS 11:6 ESV]

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:

1. DO YOU NEED TO COMMIT TO JESUS FIRST TODAY?

NEXT STEP QUESTIONS:

**2. WILL YOU MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT BY INVESTING YOUR TIME,
TALENT, AND TREASURE FOR GOD?**

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