

ORDINARY CHRISTIANS

Matthew 25-14-30 (v25)

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus tells a story about certain men being given certain amounts of responsibility in the parable of the talents. To one man he gave a large sum to take care of and then to another he gave a lesser amount and finally to one he gave a single thing to take care of. When the man came back he called the three men in to give an account of what they had done with what they had been given. Two of the three had done well but the third one to whom the least was given had done absolutely nothing with what he had been given. Applying this story to Christians reveals that the Lord gives to Christians certain things to do for Him and to some, He gives more and then to others He gives less, but every Christian is given something to do for the Lord. Like the men in the parable, Christians perform differently and sadly, most Christians seem to be just "ordinary" Christians, nothing outstanding about them.

I. SO MANY CHRISTIANS DO SO LITTLE IN SPIRITUAL THINGS

1. So many attend church services, help build the church, teach a Sunday School class, even be deacons, sing in the choir, yet they do so little spiritually.
 - These Christians truly believe that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by Him and insist that their pastor preach from God's word.
 - However they seldom read their Bibles. They believe in the bible but just don't read it.
 - These Christians believe in prayer and often ask others to pray for them.
 - Illness, family problems, loss of a job, any disaster they appreciate prayer.
 - However these Christians don't spend very much time in prayer themselves.
 - If one doesn't believe in prayer that is one thing, but for a person, a Christian, to believe in prayer but does not pray is something else.
 - These Christians attend church services and are happy when the church is full.
 - They think that everybody ought to go to church.
 - Yet these Christians seldom if ever ask or invite anybody to go to church with them.
 - These Christians are just ordinary people, not exceptionally good or bad, just average people.
 - Average church members.
 - Average church attenders.
 - Average Sunday School teachers.
 - Average church officers.
 - Even average preachers.
 - They are genuine Christian people.

II. AVERAGE CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE THE ONE TALENT MAN IN JESUS' PARABLE

1. The man who received five talents had the capacity for five and the man who received two had the capacity for two and the man who received one talent had the capacity for only one.
 - The one talent man failed.
 - He said he was afraid.
2. The average Christian is afraid to two things in his/her life and experience.
 - He/she has a tendency to over estimate the difficulty in doing spiritual things.

- Some don't read their Bibles because they think that they are not smart enough to understand it.
 - "If I was smarter and knew more, then I would read more, but I just can't do it."
 - This answer is just not true, for some very ordinary people have read the Bible and have been blessed.
- There isn't anybody who reads the Bible with an open heart who won't miss the truth that Jesus Christ is the Savior of all sinners.
- There isn't anybody who reads the Bible with an open heart who won't miss the truth that he/she is a sinner.
- Saying one cannot understand the Bible is but a lame excuse, a fear of what one may find out about him/herself.
- He/she doesn't pray regularly, faithfully, generally because he/she thinks that he/she just doesn't know how to pray.
 - Nobody knows "what" they should pray for as they should.
 - It is not big, fancy words that are used as some think.
 - It is not a speech.
 - Anybody can pray to God just as well as any child can ask his/her mother or father for something he/she wants.
 - What parent doesn't listen to what his/her child has to say and to his/her requests, no matter how clear or unclear their language is?
 - It is true that parents don't always give their children what they ask for, but parents do listen, no matter how jumbled up their words might be.
 - So it is with God.

CONCLUSION:

1. What level of Christian are YOU?
 - A five talent level?
 - A two talent level?
 - A one talent level?
2. What are you doing with the "talent" or spiritual thing God has given you to use?
3. How is your Bible study?
4. How is your Prayer life?
5. There is NO excuse for any Christian to not be using the gift/ability God has given him/her to use for Him.