

Created in Christ Jesus to Do Good Works!

Ephesians 2:8-10

I. Discovering your bag of gold (Matthew 25:14-30)

- A. What are your bags of gold? They are the good works God prepared for you to do before creation. They are also the good works of the Last Days (Matthew 24:36, 45-47). **YOU MUST BELIEVE THIS!**
- B. What is that in your hand? (Exodus 4:1-2).
 - 1. Everyone has a staff.
 - 2. You have a double anointing as a believer: what you do in the world, and what you do in the Body of Christ.
- C. What is in God's heart?
 - 1. God's works are like arrows; they must have a good point (Ephesians 2:8-10; 5:15-16; Colossians 4:2-6; Matthew 5:13-16).
 - 2. The blueprint of God's heart for us—accelerating God's activity and authority in your life (Isaiah 58:1-12)
 - 3. In Matthew 25 the next parable shows us how important the Isaiah 58 lifestyle is to God (Matthew 25:31-40).

II. Turning gifts into ministries (I Peter 4:10-11)

- A. A key point in the parable of the talents of gold is the intentionality of the whole thing.
- B. Start with something God likes (and hopefully you like), and let Him shape it (Proverbs 16:9; Acts 16:6-15).
- C. When it becomes a ministry, fight for it.
 - 1. Anything worthwhile will have to be contended for in the Spirit first, and in the natural second (Acts 16:22-28).
 - 2. Paul defended the sacred space that had been created in Philippi. When a gift becomes a ministry, you will do the same (Acts 16:28-40).

III. Sharing the Master's happiness (Matthew 25:19-23)

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