

# PARTNERING WITH GOD #4

Review:

## 1. God Owns the Earth

- Deu 10:14 (NIV) To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.
- 1Co 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.
  - **All that we have, see and enjoy on the earth belongs to God – including our bodies...**

## 2. God has given us (humanity) authority over the earth

- Gen 1:26-29 (NIV) Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may RULE over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number; REPLENISH the earth and SUBDUE it. RULE OVER the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**" [
  - God has given the earth into our OUR hands to:
    - REPLENISH – To care for
    - SUBDUE – To use for our benefit
    - RULE OVER – To Have Authority Over
  - GOD HAS GIVEN INCREDIBLE WEALTH INTO OUR HANDS

**WITH GREAT WEALTH COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...**

## 3. God's Expectation is Partnership – He is looking for partners not spectators

- Jesus told a parable about HOW GOD INTENDS to partner with His people
- Most Western Christians have trouble with partnership
  - We emphasize certain character traits
    - Agape love- His benevolent nature, He loves us just as we are
    - Grace, Mercy – His plan to save us from our sins and give us abundant life
  - We tend to ignore other character traits
    - Justice – How God loves people enough to bring correction so we can share in his glory
    - Lordship – How God's leadership involves radical obedience so we can live as partners

## REVIEW THE PARTNERSHIP PARABLE...

- THIS KINGDOM PARABLE EXPLAINS HOW GOD INTENDS TO PARTNER WITH US ON THE EARTH...  
Mat 25:14-29 (NIV) "Again, (THE KINGDOM OF GOD - vs.1) it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.  
[15] To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.  
Luke 19:12-13 (NIV) He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. [13] So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

PAUSE: Important Facts...

## - WHAT IS THIS PARABLE ABOUT?

- It is about the Kingdom of God – What THE PLAN of God is for the earth!
- **It's about How God wants to partner with us – to do business on the earth**
- **It's about stewardship of all that He has given into our hands to manage**

## - LETS REVIEW THE FACTS

### - WHAT IS A TALENT?

= 80 pounds of Silver = 20 years of labor (\$1 million in today's money)

### - WHO OWNS THE TALENTS?

- The Master OWNS THE SILVER... (He is ENTRUSTING HIS WEALTH to them)

### - WHY DID HE GIVE DIFFERENT AMOUNTS TO EACH ONE?

- "According to each one's ability" = ACCORDING THE STRENGTH OF EACH ONE...

### - WHAT IS THE COMMISSION?

- Put this money to work (not "make more money...", "not double my investment...")

- He means...."DO BUSINESS FOR ME (Like I do it) UNTIL I COME BACK!"

### - WHO ARE THESE MEN?

- They are His Trusted Servants – Each one has already been a faithful steward

- The one who received 5 has already been faithful with 2

- The one who received 2 has already been faithful with 1

- The one who received 1 has already

### - Perhaps there are servants who do not qualify to handle His resources?

- Were there Servants that were not given ANY of his resources to manage?

[16] The man who had received five talents went at once and **put his money to work** and gained five talents more. [17] So also, the one with two talents of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

### - NOTE:

- INVESTMENT IS ESSENTIAL- The faithful servants "PUT HIS RESOURCES TO WORK"

- According to the command of the MASTER

- INVESTMENT is RISKY (Business involves activity that is risky behavior)

- Some of the investments don't pay out... others pay-out big time!

- INVESTMENT results in MULTIPLICATION - The RESULT is MULTIPLICATION

- JUST INVESTING = GREAT REWARD!!

[19] "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' [21] "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!**' [22] "The man with two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' [23] "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 in your master's happiness!**' ("enter into the joy of your Lord" - KJV)

### - What does the Noble offer the Faithful Servants?

1. AFFIRMATION – They were PRAISED for "putting it to work"

2. MORE RESOURCES – They were given MORE AUTHORITY/ MORE MONEY to invest for Him

3. MASTERS JOY/LIFESTYLE – They were allowed to PARTICIPATE in the lifestyle of the Master

[24] "Then the man who had received 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. [25] **So I was afraid and went out and hid your money in the ground.** See, **here is what belongs to you.**' [26] "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? [27] 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.

**- What did the unfaithful servant do?**

1. GAVE IN TO FEAR – The Third Servant responded in Fear to the concept of Investment
  - He was afraid of INVESTING like the Master did = He didn't want to lose his money
2. HE DISOBEYED – He did not INVEST the money as the MASTER ordered
  - He treated the money like it was His... He did what **He** thought should be done with it
3. HE MISUNDERSTOOD – The Servant misunderstood the CALLING and CHARACTER of the Master
  - He thought that the Master wanted Him so SUCCEED – But the master said “put it to work!”
  - He thought that the Master would be happy with HIDING what he was given
    - o This was disobedience not prudence -

[28] **“So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. [29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.**

NOTE:

- **THE ECONOMY OF HEAVEN IS NOT LIKE ON THE EARTH**
  - o God loves everyone – Just Like you are
  - o The Call of God is to Faithful and ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP
- **GOD IS LOOKING FOR WHO WILL TAKE WHAT HE HAS GIVEN THEM AND “PUT IT TO WORK”**
  - o God gives MORE to those who are ACTIVE/ Risky Investors (put it to work!)
  - o God gives MORE to who are FAITHFUL to HIS OWN PATTERN of INVESTING
    - If you know how to be a good partner – HE GIVES MORE AND MORE!
- **GOD TAKES THE RESOURCES AWAY FROM THOSE WHO DO NOT PARTNER WITH HIM**
  - o HE GIVES IT TO THOSE WHO

**GOD DESIGNED BUSINESS MODEL** – Our disposition toward Business is wrong

GOD IS A RIGHTEOUS BUSINESSMAN

A RIGHTEOUS BUSINESSMAN invests in a community (STARTS A BUSINESS)

- o Jobs are created (livelihood for families)
- o Goods are produced (Food, supplies and services)
- o More wealth is created to be invested (more jobs, more goods/services)
- o Community Prospers (low crime, people are satisfied)

**WHO ARE THESE SERVANTS...**

- HOW MANY OF YOU WOULD SAY THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU SOMETHING TO INVEST?
- YES GOD HAS GIVE US MUCH TO “PUT TO WORK”
  - o This is ESSENTIAL for us to know...
    - The world around us pressures us to BE FEARFUL about this..
    - The world around us makes us believe that we can BURY/HIDE what God has given
    - It is important to know what THE WEALTH of God is and How to INVEST IT...

**THREE AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP**

- Our Affections – God gives us passions and loves.. How to we invest those
  - o Our Attention
  - o The word of the Lord – when He talks to us
- Our Time – what does it mean to INVEST our time rather than SPEND it
- Our Resources – What does it mean that God owns everything..

## TODAY I WE WANT TO LOOK AT HEART PARTNERSHIP

- STEWARDING OUR AFFECTIONS
  - o The Bible calls (Biblical terminology = "The Heart")

### "Affection" – (Wikipedia) Psychological/ philosophical idea

- 1. Affection or fondness is a "disposition or state of mind or body"
  - o "Affection" is often associated with a feeling or type of love. It has given rise to a number of branches of philosophy and psychology concerning emotion, influence, and state of being.

### "Heart" (Thayer) Biblical conceptualization

- The SEAT OF LIFE (subjectively, philosophically, religiously)
  - o As the heart is CENTRAL and can be "FELT" and "HEARD" – therefore it is primary for life
  - o Affected and activated by EMOTIONS (love, fear, hate etc..)
    - Emotions create a visceral & somatic sensation in the heart
- THE SEAT OF THE HUMAN SOUL
  - o the fountain of emotions, desires, passions, affections, love and hate.
  - o **The sense organ of the soul** - as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

## STEWARDSHIP YOUR HEART (Affections) SCRIPTURES

### "Managing" your heart (AFFECTIONS)

- **Pro 4:23 (NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**
  - o Guard = Keep, watch over, manage
  - o Heart = Affections, feelings, motivations
  - o "Everything flows" = Everything is motivated by your affections
    - Like a spring... It is the source of all life
  - o What and Who do you give your affections to?
    - Where do you spend your "extra" time?
      - Video games? TV? FB/IG? Work?
      - Do these things get a bigger slice of your affections than the pursuits of God?

### "Treasure" Storing up affections for what God loves... rather than carnal pleasures

- Mat 6:19-21 (NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
  - o We have so much that can capture our imagination. Just look at the reels on FB/Instagram
  - o We can give our interest and affection to ourselves, hobbies, comfort, food
  - o We can get involved in community groups, classes
  - o What are you giving your heart to?
    - Is it what God loves? Is your heart set apart for what God loves?

### "Storing up" in the heart (Affections)

- Luke 6:43-45 (NIV) "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. [44] Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. [45] A good man brings **good (things) out of the good stored up in his heart**, and an evil man

brings **evil (things) out of the evil stored up in his heart**. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

- Good fruit is produced by cultivating good affections
  - Managing your affections well - Storing up good – produces good life fruit
- Bad Fruit is produced by cultivating evil affections
  - Managing your affections poorly – Storing up evil – produces bad life fruit
- What are you feeding (storing up in) your heart?
  - The fruit (attitudes/disposition) of your life comes from what you feed your soul
  - What are you feeding your affections? Is it producing life for you?
  - Are you “putting to work” the affections that God gave you for Him?
    - In the end, the fruit of our lives will be the result of what we have stored up..

### **“Retaining” in the heart (Affections)**

- Mat 13:19 (NIV) When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not **receive it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart**. This is the seed sown along the path.
  - Good Affections are sown by God
  - We must be cultivated (capable to receive)
  - We must “receive” the good (take it in)
    - Cultivate it
  - Good affections that are “received” = produce much fruit
  - Good affections that are NOT “received” = are stolen by the Evil one
- How are you stewarding the Word of God
  - Do you have a regular time where God can sow His word into your heart?
  - Is it on your schedule like a meeting? (Because it is a meeting!)

### **LIVING IN PARTNERSHIP – STEWARDING YOUR AFFECTIONS**

- 1Co 6:12-13 (NIV) "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. [13] You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- **You have the ability to choose what you will give your affections to...**
  - Some life interests are self-serving
    - They are great for sabbath activities but destructive as a lifestyle...
    - EXAMPLES: Food, recreation, collecting material things, video games
  - Others are kingdom pursuits (God-serving)
    - Pursuits of the mind (take more than one hour/day)
      - Learning/Reading/Podcasts – Going after the interests God has given you
        - Not “mind wasting” – “Scrolling,” watchin TV, playing video games,
    - Giftings - the ways that God has uniquely enabled you
      - Using your creative gifts to bless/encourage others
      - Writing, coaching, encouraging, communicating, practicing, producing..
        - Not “Gift wasting” – sloth, disuse, misuse, burying your gifts
    - Callings – The spiritual vocation that God has given to you
      - FIVE FOLD -Prophetic, Pastoral, Evangelistic, Teaching, Apostolic
      - Cultivating your gifts for kingdom
        - Business calling – Make money for support and ministry
        - Counseling – Meet with others to encourage etc..

- Teaching – What knowledge do you have to share with others
- Apostolic – What is God calling you to start
- Not “Call Wasting”
  - Sloth, Staying home, not engaging in opportunities to love, care, serve
  -
- **BURYING THEIR AFFECTION THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU**
  - I know a Christian man who loves cars...
    - He spends more TIME & ENERGY on his car than anything else
      - Driving, washing, fixing
    - He spends MONEY on his car...
      - Gas, upgrades, driving...
  - What do you love? What captures your extra time and attention
  - Where do you spend your money? (they used to call it disposable income)
- Jesus taught; **Mat 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

## **MANAGING YOUR AFFECTIONS IS PRIMARY BECAUSE IT DETERMINES WHAT YOU VALUE**

- Where will you spend/invest your time
- Where will you spend/invest your energy
- **What will you give yourself to... in this life?**
- **WHERE HEART IS... THAT IS THE INVESTMENT THAT DETERMINES THE DIRECTION AND OUTCOME OF YOUR LIFE**
  - **ARE YOU BURYING THE AFFECTIONS THAT GOD GAVE YOU**
  - **ARE YOU “PUTTING THEM TO WORK”**
  - **DOES YOUR AFFECTION FOR GOD SHOW UP IN**
    - **Meeting with Him**
    - **Using your Gifts and Calling to Serve him**
    - **Stewarding the Word of God**
      - **Listening, Writing down and Obeying what He gives you.**

## **LET’S GET QUIET – LISTEN TO THE LORD..**

### **What ARE THE AFFECTIONS that God has given to you to manage?**

- ARE You affectionate about being with Him
  - God is calling you deeper!
- ARE YOU AFFECTIONATE ABOUT SERVING OTHERS
  - God is calling you to step in and serve with His passion.
- HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A CREATIVE ABILITY
  - Writing, music, painting etc..
  - How will you “put this to work” for him
- HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A PASSION TO KNOW HIM
  - How have you been investing this?
  - Do you have regular times of meeting with God on your calendar?
  - Do you meet with others to bless & care for them

## **SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE HEART**

### Obedient of Heart

- Deu 10:12; Deu 11:13; Deu 26:16; 1Ki 2:4; Psa 119:112; Eph 6:6, Rom 6:17; Rom 10:10

### Trusting with all your heart

- Pro 3:5

### Love with all your heart

- Mat 22:37

### Fidelity/ Faithful of heart

- Neh 9:8

### Zealous of heart

- Jer 20:9

## **THE HEART SHOULD SEEK...**

### God

- 2Ch 19:3; 2Ch 30:19; Ezz 7:10; Psa 10:17; Psa 84:2

### To be joyful

- 1Sa 2:1; Psa 4:7; Psa 97:11; Isa 65:14; Zec 10:7

### To be perfect

- 1Ki 8:61; Psa 101:2

### To be upright

- Psa 97:11; Psa 125:4

### To be clean

- Psa 51:10; Psa 73:1

### To be pure

- Psa 24:4; Pro 22:11; Mat 5:8; 1Ti 1:5; 2Ti 2:22; Jas 4:8; 1Pe 1:22

### To be sincere

- Luk 8:15; Act 2:46; Eph 6:5; Col 3:22; Heb 10:22

### To be repentant

- Deu 30:2; Psa 34:18; Psa 51:17

### To be devout

- 1Sa 1:13; Psa 4:4; Psa 9:1; Psa 27:8; Psa 77:6; Psa 119:10; Psa 119:69; Psa 119:145

### To be wise

- 1Ki 3:9; 1Ki 3:12; 1Ki 4:29; Job 9:4; Pro 8:10; Pro 10:8; Pro 11:29; Pro 14:33; Pro 23:15

### To be tender

- 1Sa 24:5; 2Ki 22:19; Job 23:16; Psa 22:14; Eph 4:32

### To be holy

- Psa 66:18; 1Pe 3:15

### To be compassionate

- Jer 4:19; Lam 3:51

### To be lowly

- Mat 11:29