

**International Training for Elders and
Responsible Ones (October 2020)**

**#4: Being Faithful in Service in the Lord's Commission
and in His Gifts for His Second and Imminent Coming**

12/28-1/3

OL Summary:

I. Matthew 24:45-51 reveals that we must be faithful in service in the Lord's commission to give God as food to the members of His household so that we may win Christ as our reward in the coming kingdom:

A. God has a household and a household administration, an economy, to dispense Himself as food to the members of His household for His expression. **B.** God has set faithful and prudent slaves over His household as household administrators, stewards, channels of supply, to give His people food at the proper time. **C.** Give them food refers to ministering the word of God and Christ as the life supply to the believers in the church; Christ as the life-giving Spirit is our food, embodied and realized in the word of life. **D.** To say in our heart that our Master delays is to love the present evil age and not to love the Lord's appearing. /We must beware of covetousness, not storing up treasure for ourselves but being rich toward God. /"Remember Lot's wife" means that we should not love and treasure the evil world that God is going to judge and utterly destroy; this is a solemn warning to the world-loving believers. **E.** To beat our fellow slaves is to mistreat fellow believers. /We must not judge and condemn our fellow believers but be kind to them, tenderhearted, forgiving them, even as God in Christ forgave us. /Reviling is when we cause the saints to inwardly suffer pain or to be inwardly wounded by assailing and criticizing them harshly with abusive language. /The Lord's way is to bind up our wounds (healing us) and to pour oil and wine on our wounds (giving us the Holy Spirit and the divine life). /The consciousness of sin comes from knowing God; in the same way, the consciousness of reviling words comes from the knowledge of the Body; reviling words are opposed to the testimony of the Body. **F.** To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things. /Because of their divine nature and holy standing, the believers should not be yoked together with the unbelievers; this should be applied to all intimate relationship between believers and unbelievers, not only to marriage and business. /We must flee youthful lusts and pursue the all-inclusive Christ with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **G.** The faithful and prudent slave will be rewarded with the authority to rule in the manifestation of the kingdom, whereas the evil slave will be cut off from the glorious Christ, from the glory of His kingdom, and from His glorious presence in His kingdom.

II. Matthew 25:14-30 reveals that we must be faithful in service in the Lord's gifts to make a profit for Him so that we may enter into the joy of the Lord in the coming kingdom:

A. The Lord linked Himself to a man going abroad (into the heavens) and delivering to his slaves his

possessions; his possessions signifies the church with all the believers, who constitute God's household. **B.** To one of his slaves the master gave five talents, to another two, and to another one—to each according to his own ability. /Talents signify spiritual gifts (spiritual skills and abilities). /All the members of the Body of Christ are gifted, and all are gifts. /Own ability signifies our natural ability, which is constituted of God's creation and our learning. /Moses, Peter, and Paul's natural ability passed through the cross and came up in resurrection to be used by the Lord for the building up of His Body. **C.** Trading with talents signifies using the gift that the Lord has given us; gaining other talents signifies that the gift we received from the Lord has been used to the fullest extent, without any loss or waste. **D.** In contrast to the five-talented and two-talented ones, the one-talented one went off, dug in the earth, and hid his master's money; this signifies not using the Lord's gift to save people and to minister His riches to them. /The earth signifies the world; thus, dug in the earth signifies becoming involved in the world to bury the gift we have received from the Lord. /Hid his master's money signifies rendering the Lord's gift useless, letting it lie waste under the cloak of certain earthly excuses; to make any excuse for not using the Lord's gift is to hide the gift. **E.** The master says to the evil and slothful slave that he should have deposited the master's money with the money changers (the bankers), and when he came, he would have recovered what was his with interest. /In a sense, we may say that the money changers (the bankers) are all the new ones, young ones, and backsliding ones; the best way for us to use our talent is to take care of others, to become interested in others and concerned for them in order to dispense Christ into them. /As we spend time with the Lord and open to Him regarding whom we should take care of, He will burden us; as we contact and have fellowship with others by being one with the Lord in cherishing them with His presence and nourishing them with His riches, we will spontaneously use our talent. **F.** When the Lord comes back, He will settle accounts with us; this signifies the Lord's judging at His judgment seat in the air (within His Parousia) where the believers' living, conduct, and work will be judged for reward or punishment. **G.** The Lord's reward is not related to the size and quantity of our work but to our faithfulness in using His gift to the fullest extent; Christ Himself will be our crown of life, crown of righteousness, and crown of glory as a reward to us for our enjoyment in the coming kingdom. **H.** In the coming kingdom the Lord's gift will be taken away from the slothful believers, and they will be cast into outer darkness, but the faithful believers' gift will be increased, and they will enter into the joy of their master; to participate in the Lord's joy is the greatest reward, better than glory and position, in the kingdom.

CP1: Faithful and prudent slave who gives food to the people around at the proper time

OL1: Matthew 24:45-51 reveals that we must be faithful in service in the Lord's commission to give God as food to the members of His household so that we may win Christ as our reward in the coming kingdom: [Matt. 24:45-46](#) Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. If I did not labor adequately in the Word and came to speak to you, I would just be ministering to you "a cup of coffee and some doughnuts." To cook a nourishing, good breakfast, requires your diligence. Faithful here equals diligent.

The Lord's possessions are always around you. The believers, the churches, and even the more all the sinners are around you. It is your duty, your obligation, to minister food to them. If they are sinners, you have to minister the gospel of grace to them as the food they need. If they are believers sick of something, then you need to minister some word from the Bible that suits their condition, either to nourish them, to heal them, to strengthen them, or to wake them up. To do this is to be a faithful and prudent slave, ministering the proper food to the Lord's possessions, which are all kinds of persons, at the proper time. When you enter into your office, you must realize that this is one of the proper times to minister the proper food of the gospel to the unbelieving ones. When you go to school, ... all the classmates around you are the Lord's possessions delivered to you that you may take the opportunity, the proper time, to minister the gospel to them.

OL2: To say in our heart that our Master delays is to love the present evil age and not to love the Lord's appearing. To beat our fellow slaves is to mistreat fellow believers. [Matt. 24:48-50](#) But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays, And begins to beat his fellow slaves ..., The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

You waste your time of service in beating. Instead of doing the service, you beat the brothers, the fellow slaves. Many of the brothers can testify that they never heard me beating others by criticizing or exposing them. My only burden is to release messages. Although I have no intention of exposing anyone, many are exposed by the light in the messages I release. That is not my job but the Lord's work. We all have to stop our criticizing, judging, opposing, and murmuring as a kind of beating. We must spend our time, our energy, and our everything to do a positive service for the Lord's interest.

Application to the Serving ones

All the brothers and sisters in the church should be the serving ones. For that, few should rise up first and take the initiative in serving. When serving, the first important thing is to spend time in making delicious, nutritious meals. It's a nutritious and delicious dish. In order for you to provide a delicious and nutritious spiritual meal, ① you should think about and pray for the new ones whom you will serve the

food, ② think about and pray for the food from the viewpoint of God's need, and ③ think about and pray for making the food easier for them to eat from the viewpoint of the new ones, ④ fellowship with brothers and sisters to do the service of the Body, ⑤ make conversation (fellowship) with the new ones to make the food delicious and enjoyable. The dishes made in this way with love and time, unlike the "coffee and doughnut" meals, can appropriately nourish new ones."

The church in Kobe uses the end year and New Year time to plan a variety of event that people can join also by Zoom.

- ① 12/20 (Lord's day): PM3:30-4:30 Gospel Song Meeting
- ② 12/27 (LD): PM3:30-4:30 Year End Blessing Meeting
- ③ 12/28 (Mon): PM6: 00-9:00 Responsible ones Blending
- ④ 12/29 (Tue): PM7:00-9:00 Year-end prayer meeting
- ⑤ 12/31 (Thu): PM6:30-8:00 Year's end Count blessings Meeting, Prayer meeting & Night view BLD
- ⑥ 1/1 (Fri): AM6:00 Sunrise Viewing BLD & 10:00-12:00 New Year Meeting & PM BLD
- ⑦ 1/2 (Sat): Gospel/Visits BLD in each district
- ⑧ 1/3 (LD): New Year's Lord's day Meeting in each VG & PM1: 30-2:30 Zoom New Year's Meeting
- ⑨ 1/4 (Mon): PM Gospel/Visits BLD in each district
- ⑩ 1/5 (Tue): PM Gospel/Visits BLD in each district
- ⑪ 1/9 (Sat): 10-12:00 Kansai Responsible ones meeting
- ⑫ 1/11 (Mon, Holiday): AM Gospel/Visits BLD & PM6:00-9:00 Responsible ones BLD

Beside these, there are Crystallization Study training on the book of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes from 12/23-1/8 (4 messages per week). In all these events, more brothers and sisters can participate to advance "everyone grows and everyone functions" in the fellowship and oneness of the Body of Christ and the flow of the Holy Spirit.

Don't have jealousy nor a competitive mind when you serve. When you serve with jealousy or a competitive mind, you will look for the mistakes of brothers and sisters, condemn and blame them. [2 Cor. 3:6](#) Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. For example, you find trivial mistakes in brothers and sisters' service, and you get angry and blame. And in addition to this, you will start bringing up his previous failures. This exposes that you are not confessing the sins of your own jealousy in the previous matter. You ought not to be vessel unto dishonor to put in jealousy or competitive mind, but a precious vessel filled with Christ, to dispense Christ to others in love. Please confess your sins, remove the uncleanness, and serve with a pure heart.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, let me be a faithful and prudent slave, supplying food according to the needs of all kinds of people. I will prepare myself by pursuing the Word and think about the words worthy of nourishing, healing and awakening and pray so that I can serve a delicious meal to those around me. I actively serve for the Lord's interests without beating my fellow slaves wasting time by criticizing, judging, and murmuring."

CP2: Have a manner of life that expresses Christ with patience, diligently seek the gospel and truth and bear the burden you received from the Lord and the church

OL1: To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things. Matt. 24:48-50 But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays, And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken, The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

When you are beating the saints, you are still interested in the church life... Because you are so "burdened for the church" and so interested in the church life, you criticize the brothers and the sisters.

Once you make the decision to forget about the church, to have no interest in the church, you enter into the loving of the world, and you keep company with worldly people who are always being stupefied by this age. A saint who loves the world has no heart to talk about what elders are good or bad. He may once have been beating his fellow slaves, but now he is fully occupied with worldly enjoyment. He is now eating and drinking with the drunken. Nearly every day may be a happy day to him, and nearly every weekend a pleasant weekend, because he is enjoying the stupefying of the worldly things.

OL2: Matthew 25:14-30 reveals that we must be faithful in service in the Lord's gifts to make a profit for Him so that we may enter into the joy of the Lord in the coming kingdom: Matt. 25:14-15 For the kingdom of the heavens is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions. To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad.

We should not wait in an indifferent way for the Lord to give us something. No, we must diligently seek the gospel and the truth. We should be eager to know the fall of man, redemption, regeneration, salvation, the cleansing of the blood, and the washing of the Spirit. All these are aspects of the full gospel.... We need to [also know and] experience the truth concerning the church, God's eternal purpose, and God's economy. Eventually, these truths will become our talent. Then we shall be able to minister them to others. In this way, the Lord's possessions become our talent. Furthermore, we need to pray, "Lord, I want to take care of the saints and bear their burdens. My heart is for them." If we have a heart for the saints and are burdened for them, they, the Lord's possession, will be given to us as a talent.

Do not drop any burden that the Lord has given you.... The Lord has a vast work in His recovery. For this work, He needs thousands of young brothers and sisters to be raised up to bear the responsibility.

The talent is not something of your natural birth; rather, it is altogether related to your burden. If you take up a burden, you will receive a talent.

Application to Business Parson/Graduate Students

As a business person or a researcher, please recognize that "eating and drinking with drunken is socializing with people in this world who are drunk on this world affair." If you are deeply involved in your relationship with this world, you will be paralyzed. John 15:18 If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before you. 16:33 These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have affliction, but take courage; I have overcome the world. You cannot completely avoid the criticism of the people of the world against you. For the world hates the Lord and hates the church (it may prove that there is no testimony if there is no criticism at all).

But even if you have oppositions, by showing a manner of life that expresses Christ in patience, God visits someone who call you an evildoer. 1 Pet. 2:12 Having your manner of life excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the matter concerning which they speak against you as evildoers they may, by your good works, as they see them with their own eyes, glorify God in the day of His visitation.

You should be careful not to lose your testimony by loving the world. 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him; 16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.

In a positive side, please pray diligently, fellowship, and practice the burden you received from the Lord and the church. The four pillars of the church are ① Truth, ② Life, ③ Church, and ④ Gospel. The truth is for the experience of life, and the church is produced and built in life. And the church should actively preach the gospel of the Kingdom for expansion and propagation. The more you pay attention to and have burden for the four pillars of the church, the more you advance in life and function.

Gospel Song Meeting held on the afternoon of 12/20 Lord Day was blessed, and for the first time the number of people gathering on the Lord's Day in Kobe exceeded 200.1 The main functions were performed by the two sisters who led the hymns and the young couple as facilitators. This young couple was in charge of this function for the first time, but they were well prepared and functioned well in response to various things. There are, of course, points that need to be improved, but overall it was good. It will be better if we have the next opportunity. Many young business parsons need to rise up and take responsibility for the church services.

Prayer: " Lord Jesus, I seek for gospel and truth in diligence. And I learn and experience the truth of the church, God's eternal purpose, and God's economy. The truths become my talent. I supply these truths as gospel to the people Lord has burdened me. To avoid being deeply involved and paralyzed with this world, in my youth I rise up and take the burden from the Lord and the church. Amen!"

CP3: The best way to use your talent is to have interest in people for the Lord, pray and dispense Christ to them

Matt. 25:15-17 To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad. Immediately he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained another five. Similarly, he who had received the two gained another two. ...26-27 And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow. Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest.

OL1: Trading with talents signifies using the gift that the Lord has given us; gaining other talents signifies that the gift we received from the Lord has been used to the fullest extent, without any loss or waste. **OL2:** In contrast to the five-talented and two-talented ones, the one-talented one went off, dug in the earth, and hid his master's money; this signifies not using the Lord's gift to save people and to minister His riches to them. The earth signifies the world; thus, dug in the earth signifies becoming involved in the world to bury the gift we have received from the Lord. Hid his master's money signifies rendering the Lord's gift useless, letting it lie waste under the cloak of certain earthly excuses; to make any excuse for not using the Lord's gift is to hide the gift. **OL3:** The master says to the evil and slothful slave that he should have deposited the master's money with the money changers (the bankers), and when he came, he would have recovered what was his with interest. In a sense, we may say that the money changers (the bankers) are all the new ones, young ones, and backsliding ones; the best way for us to use our talent is to take care of others, to become interested in others and concerned for them in order to dispense Christ into them. As we spend time with the Lord and open to Him regarding whom we should take care of, He will burden us; as we contact and have fellowship with others by being one with the Lord in cherishing them with His presence and nourishing them with His riches, we will spontaneously use our talent. **OL4:** When the Lord comes back, He will settle accounts with us; this signifies the Lord's judging at His judgment seat in the air (within His parousia) where the believers' living, conduct, and work will be judged for reward or punishment. The Lord's reward is not related to the size and quantity of our work but to our faithfulness in using His gift to the fullest extent. **OL5:** In the coming kingdom the Lord's gift will be taken away from the slothful believers, and they will be cast into outer darkness, but the faithful believers' gift will be increased, and they will enter into the joy of their master.

The first aspect is that others are fed and given rich nourishment. The second aspect is that the Lord's possessions are multiplied. For example, the more we preach the gospel, the richer the gospel becomes. It is the same with

the truths. As we minister the truths to others, the truths multiply. This is also true of the saints and the churches.

Application to New ones/Youth/College Students

God's requiring five talents from the five-talented, two from the two-talented and one from the one-talented indicates that God is requiring each to make maximum use of the talent He gave according to each ability. Anyone who is a believer was given talent, so the Lord does not take any excuses of not using talent. New ones and young people, the Lord is requiring you to make business and make profit according to the talent you received.

People who could not become overcomers had too much engagement with this world by "digging the earth." Although you live in this world, but you are not of this world. So don't get too deeply involved with this world.

John 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

For example, if you are a student, you should not spend too much time after school or on holidays for club activities or play. If you are working, it is digging the earth that you work overtime too much or working on holidays at your company, or your active participating in drinking parties and holiday golf after work. Even if you are criticized by your friends or bosses for not accompanying with them, you never have to be afraid. 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

You have received at least one talent from the Lord. The best way to do business with your talent is to be interested in, pray, and dispense Christ to people for the Lord.

You need to use lists and statistics when you are interested in and care for people. Luke 15:4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? If you don't have statistics, 100 and 99 are the same for those who aren't very interested in people. Moreover, even 100 and 90 are the same to them.

Phil.2:21 For all seek their own things, not the things of Christ Jesus (things concerning the church with all the saints). From your youth, or from your being new one, please learn whether you're increasing or decreasing by looking at statistics, and then check the list and have interest in those who couldn't come to the meetings, pray for them and contact them and feed them by dispensing Christ to them. Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, the Lord has entrusted me with a talent. The best way to use my talent is to have interest in others, take care of them and dispense Christ into them. I open to the Lord, spend time with Him and cherish them with the Lord's presence, nourish them with the Lord's riches according to the burden given by Him. Save me from becoming an evil and slothful slave who 'dug the earth and buried' by having too much to do with the world. Amen!"