

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **James 1:22-27**.
- B. In Jn. 13:17 Jesus tells us that we are blessed when we do what we know to be right.
"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."
- C. This morning I would like to look at four classes of people which may help us to see who we are and who we should strive to become.
- D. Of the four, which are you?

I. THOSE WHO DID **LITTLE WITH LITTLE**.

- A. The **one-talent man** of Mt. 25 is a good example of this.
- B. The world is full of people who like to think of themselves this way.
- C. The 1-talent man did not have to return 2 talents (or 5 talents), just use the talent he had. The same is true with us, it doesn't make any difference as to how much talent we have; it is whether or not we use our talents.

II. THOSE WHO DID **LITTLE WITH MUCH**.

- A. These people are known as **under-achievers**.
- B. The **rich farmer** was greatly blessed but did little with his wealth (see Lk. 12:13-21).
- C. The **rich man** of Lk. 16 had much but would not help poor Lazarus (see Lk. 16:19-31).
- D. The **rich young ruler** a man with morals, riches and authority but when faced with the truth did little (see Lk. 18:18-30).

III. THOSE WHO DID **MUCH WITH MUCH**.

- A. **Job** was a very rich man and with his wealth did much (Job 1:3; 1:1).
(**Job 1:3**) His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
(**Job 1:1**) There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil.
- B. **Moses** was a man rich with talent, meekness, strength and leadership abilities and with God's help performed the great work of leading the Hebrews from Egypt into the wilderness, towards the Promised Land.
- C. **Abraham** was rich in livestock, silver and gold, according to Gen. 13:2. He gave a tenth of all to Melchizedek the high priest (see Gen. 14:20).
Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.
- D. **Saul of Tarsus** was a rich man in education, attainments, family heritage and missionary zeal, after becoming a Xian he retained these qualities and did great work for God as an apostle (Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:4-6).
(**Gal 1:13-14**) For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it; **14** and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.
(**Phil 3:4-6**) although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

IV. THOSE WHO DID **MUCH WITH LITTLE**.

- A. This last group of people is those we can really look up to: the **over-achievers**.
- B. **Samson** used only an ox goad to kill 600 Philistines.
- C. **Gideon** used 300 men with trumpets, torches and pitchers to overcome an innumerable company of

Midianites.

- D. Think of **David** with just a sling and a stone, facing the mighty Goliath. (Tell the joke of explorer finding 3,000 yr. old mummy).
- E. One who did much with little is **the poor widow** and her 2 mites (see Mt. 12:41-44).
- F. **Dorcas** (or Tabitha) worked well with cloth, needle and thread. A needle is a small instrument but one which can do good things for others (see Ac. 9:36-41).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We must honestly look at ourselves and ask ourselves what kind of person am I? Am I:
 - 1. **One who does little with little.**
 - 2. **One who does little with much.**
 - 3. **One who does much with much.**
 - 4. **One who does much with little.**
- B. God is going to deal with you the same way you deal with Him. That is;
 - 1. We must first **give** so God can give to us (Lk. 6:38).
"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."
 - 2. As we **plant** that is how we will reap (Gal. 6:7-8).
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.
- C. The scariest verse in the whole Bible for me--Luke 12:48.
...but the one who did not know *it*, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.
- D. Therefore, based on the examples we have discussed and knowing we must be givers as well as planters of good things, which one are you?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.