

## C&C: Are you Committed to the Work of the Lord

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

When God calls you to a ministry or to a work you must be faithful. You must recognize the impact that your work has on the people you are reaching out to. This is not to be taken lightly! The consequences of your work have ramifications that can reach all over the world! You must not underestimate the ministry or the work that you have been given by God. You must be consistent or you will learn the hard way that even though you may have accomplished for the Lord you will see where you also lost reaching out to many other souls because you didn't work to your full potential that God gave you for the ministry of the work you were called to. If you see yourself not attaining to where you need to be you need to ask God for help to get there. This prayer is not just a God help me prayer even though that will help you get through sometimes. This has got to be a fervent prayer that pulls down strong holds, knocks down walls, and slays giants!! I mean praying where you don't stop until you get the victory and do the ministry or work you are called to. Praying in the Spirit whether in your native tongue or in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance. God will not call you to ministry or to a work without giving you the ability to accomplish it and in the magnitude in which he desires of you. The question is will you come up to the place where God desires of you?

### **Luke 19:12-27**

12 He said therefore, **A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.**

13 **And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.**

14 **But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.**

15 **And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.**

16 **Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.**

17 **And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.**

18 **And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.**

19 **And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.**

20 **And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:**

21 **For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.**

22 **And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:**

23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26 For I say unto you, **That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.**

27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

The Lord has told us that he is an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow. We are to occupy in the kingdom until he comes. Every man according to his several ability given by God. We are not to be slack in the ministry or the work that God has called us to. We will give an account over what God has given to us and you do not want to find yourself as the wicked servant who refused the work of the Lord and sat around idle refusing to occupy until he returned. Cast that wicked servant into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth for many are called but few are chosen.

If you are struggling in the ministry or the work that God has called you to ask the Lord again to help you, mean it, and then through Christ achieve it. Overcome in Jesus name!

### Hebrews 12:5-15

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, **My son,** despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Receive the chastisement of the Lord and let that which is lame be healed! So that you can be the sons of God, partakers of his holiness, and afterward yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. For those of you who refuse to chastise your children you do not love them.

### **Proverbs 13:24**

**24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son:** but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Even so, in the natural if you do not chastise your children you do not love them but rather you hate them.

### **Proverbs 19:18**

**18 Chasten thy son while there is hope,** and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

### **Proverbs 23:13-14**

**13 Withhold not correction from the child:** for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

**14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod,** and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

So we must receive chastisement of the Lord, who loves us, so that we can receive the correction needed to inherit eternal life. This chastisement also includes being committed to the ministry or to the work God has given to you to perform.

Some of the things that get in the way of you accomplishing for the Lord is sin, cares of this life, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.

### **Sin getting in the way**

When God calls you to a ministry or to a work Satan is going to do everything he can to destroy you from this work and the work itself if he can. You can be working and laboring for the Lord every day and then you end up somehow falling short and sinning. There isn't anyone that is perfect. I highly recommend that you repent every day through out the day just in case you have sinned against the Lord. This is only a wise thing to do. The Apostle Paul said, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Rm 7:21) When you give into sin the work and labor of the Lord you are doing suffers. You ask how? Your faithfulness and trustworthiness is considered by God. Depending on the ministry or work you are called to this can cause you to fail to accomplish it for the day or to the extent it was meant to be accomplished which has consequences. Once the sin has taken place you need to immediately repent, but then you will have to quickly lay down the battle of condemnation that produces guilt because this will hinder the work and God is the justifier of many. We do not work for our salvation and you are not a hypocrite because you have fallen short and sinned and then went right back to work for God after repenting. This is recognizing the grace of God, mercy, forgiveness, and that God is the justifier of many and righteousness is imputed to your charge when you repented of your sins. That isn't a hypocrite that is someone who loves God, tries their best to remain faithful not sinning, then when a mistake is made swiftly repenting and moving on.

### **Cares of this life getting in the way**

This is the place of thorns where we learn that the word of God is choked out. (Lk 8:7) Worries of life, anxieties, and depressions because of what is taking place in your life or those around you. These things will hinder you from accomplishing the ministry or the work that God has called you to. Remember, we are all to occupy until he comes. If you are not working or laboring for God then you are not in his will and need to start praying in earnest for what God would have you to do and he will reveal this to you because we all were given work according to our several ability. You also want to work to the ability given to you. Are you committed to the work of the Lord?

I want to share with you some examples of the ramifications of being hindered by satan with the ministry or work you are called to. You get overwhelmed and just can't take anymore at the moment for the day, but God desired for you to contact someone who He knew was going through a hard time and needed to hear your words of encouragement, scriptures, and prayer. However, because of the very real anxieties, while God is touching your heart to contact them, you can't seem to manage to do so and don't. That person goes on to buy drugs or alcohol to get drunk because they never heard your words of encouragement, scriptures, and prayer. Another example, God wants you to witness throughout the community with the Church and you have the gift of exhortation, but you have panic attacks because there may be loose dogs in the neighborhood so you refuse to go. People that only you could have communicated with never heard from you and remained unchanged. Another example, you get depressed, but God desires for you to visit a nursing home or hospital, say between the hours of 2 PM to 5 PM, to witness and pray with the people that are there but you are so depressed you can barely move. So you fight with it and pray and instead of making it at 2 PM you manage to get there at 4 PM. Thank God for that and the souls you reached, but God wanted you to reach them for 3 hours not 1 hour and so you were hindered and the souls you missed may or may not have another opportunity. We must pray and prevail accomplishing all that God desires of us.

### **The deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things (Mk 4:19) getting in the way**

This is the place where you find that you are so busy trying to make more money whether it is to be rich or just to make more money so that you can have a better lifestyle such as more vacations, nicer cars, better home or a second home that you no longer have any time to do the ministry or to do the work God has called you to and the word is choked out by the thorns and satan has hindered you. This can also be where you are so busy with your family that you never have time for anything else but making it to Church faithfully. However, where is the ministry or the work God has called you to? Remember we are to occupy until he comes and not be slothful servants. You are a servant of Jesus Christ and we must be busy about the ministry or work of the Lord given to us represented to us in the parable above as pounds. You definitely got at least one pound but are too busy with life to use it. You are on dangerous ground and will give account to the righteous judge who will see that you were more concerned with your family time i.e. sports, eating out, and watching movies than you were for reaching out to lost souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ and you may be found as the wicked servant who didn't do the ministry or the work that God called you to do. This can also apply to people without families who are just too busy spending time with friends, video games, or any other kind of entertainment finding only time to go to Church faithfully. However, where is the ministry or the work God has called you to? Just because you are younger doesn't mean God doesn't expect you to occupy

until He comes and to do the ministry or work he has called you to. Your age doesn't exempt you from the ministry or the work of the Lord that God has given to you to accomplish.

**Galatians 6:9**

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Hebrews 6:10-12**

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.