

Let Me Introduce You

"To the Bride of Christ"

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"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

Thread: **What I think of the Bride of Christ (The Church) matters to Jesus.**

Parable of the Three Servants

*"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵ He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip... ¹⁹ After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more. ²¹ The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together! ²² The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more. ²³ The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together! ²⁴ Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back. ²⁶ But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, ²⁷ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it. ²⁸ Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.'" **Matthew 25:14-29 NLT***

- **Not teaching** – I am brought into relationship with God by works.

- **Teaches** – God has given each of us **purpose, time, talents, and treasure** to do something significant for the Kingdom of God.

Purpose	Time	Treasure	Talents
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- **Starts** with MY OWN LIFE and FAMILY...

- **Extends** to MY CHURCH, which exists because each one of us who receives from it, participates in it. GIVES to this STOREHOUSE to fill it up, SO we together are gifts, all representing our BEST, and can be ready to meet needs all around us that present themselves daily and we get to say "YES" to YOU and your need as well as YOUR NEIGHBOR'S.

- **THEN** I am free to GIVE to whatever needs I see around me from my own storehouse...

- **Teaches all that I have in my hands** comes from God with a **purpose** and a **priority**.

- Tithe, offerings, generosity

- "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. ⁹ You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. ¹⁰ Bring all tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! ¹¹ Your crops (Work) will be abundant, for I will guard them..."

Malachi 3:8-11 NLT

- "What sorrow awaits you... For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. **You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.**" **Luke 11:42 NLT**

- Purpose, Time, Talent, and Treasure.

- Do we know the value of the Kingdom?

- **Teaches I will be held accountable** for what He put in my hand.

- "If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." **Matthew 10:42 NLT**

- "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds." **Revelations 22:12-13 NLT**

- "Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. ¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great

loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. ¹⁶ Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Stop deceiving yourselves." **1 Corinthians 3:12-18 NLT**

- "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'" **Matthew 25:21 NLT**

- "Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." **Matthew 6:20-21 NLT**

The Final Judgment

³¹ "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. ³⁷ "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? ⁴⁰ "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me! ⁴¹ "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. ⁴² For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me. ⁴⁴ "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you? ⁴⁵ "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'" **Matthew 25: 31-45 NLT**

Challenges:

1. What is holding you back from committing fully to the Bride of Christ?
 - Heights Church is NOT casual about our mission. We are compelled forward to the next person.
 - It's about leveraging your God-given TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURE as people of the BLESSING, people of the LIGHT... THE BRIDE of Christ.
2. Will you shine as a signal fire of hope for this city and this generation?
 - What will you START?
 - What will you STOP?
 - What will you CONTINUE?
 - What will you in FAITH reach for?

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