

February 2015

Dear Friends:

I like having agendas, task lists, and procedures. I like having instructions and rules, though I don't always read or follow them. I like knowing that they are there. I'm a "meetings" kind of guy, with policies to follow, and a goal to accomplish. My analytical brain likes knowing that there are steps to take, and processes to follow in order to get the job done. This is my problem with the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30.

The master calls three servants in; three servants familiar with his business, and gives them each, according to their abilities, a portion of his wealth before leaving on a journey. The master provides no instruction to his servants. He gives them no assignment, no task list, no agenda, no goal, no benchmarks, no anything. He leaves, and according to Scripture, is gone for a long time.

The first servant, given five bags of gold, goes straight to work. He gets after it, if you will, and over the course of time, turns five bags of gold into ten. The first servant has skills and abilities over and above the norm. He knows the master's business, takes what the master gives him, and, without direction or procedures, doubles the master's money.

The second servant, given two bags of gold, also sets right to task, and puts the master's money to work. Though not quite as talented or able as the first servant, he too doubles the master's money. Without an agenda to follow, and without rules or instructions, the second servant is able to present four bags of gold on the master's return. Side note: neither the first, nor the second servant said, "Master, here is your money back. I have used it to make this amount for myself." The servants recognized that it was ALL the master's gold.

The third servant, in whom the master recognized ability, was also given a bag of gold. It is worth mentioning here, that a single talent, this bag of gold the third servant was entrusted with, was worth about twenty years' wages for a general laborer – a bit over \$300,000 in today's dollars. No pity for this third servant; he wasn't given instructions either, but the master saw ability, and entrusted him with a portion of his wealth just like he did with the other two servants. This guy however, out of fear, even though he knows the master's business, buried the money in the dirt. When the master returns, the third servant is only able to bring back the original bag of gold.



I feel like these servants must have felt. I am here at LATCOM, without instructions, without procedures, with my frustrated analytical brain questioning at every opportunity, “What are you doing, Lord? How am I supposed to do this? Why do I feel such a strong pull on my heart for missions that does not fit who I thought I was?”

I don’t even begin to imagine in my wildest dreams that I am the first servant. I seriously question my ability to be the second servant. Based on the results, though, my prayer is that I overcome fear, and refuse to be the third servant. Whatever the Lord has gifted me to do; I want to do it, to the best of my abilities, as He equips me, so that I can bring Him the glory. It is ALL His.

Julie and I, together, are called to serve the Lord through LATCOM to reach Bolivians. No, this is not where I perceived my life would lead. Yes, I am terrified of the unknown, without policies and procedures or rules to fall back on. We don’t know exactly what this will look like. We don’t know if we’ll be in Bolivia full-time some point down the road, or if we’ll be traveling to Bolivia with teams multiple times a year. There is so much we don’t know. But we DO know that we serve a God who has a plan and a purpose for our lives. We are stepping out in faith, trusting in His guidance and provision.

To do this, we need your help. We are seeking to raise full-time monthly support for our ministry. We are asking you to partner with us in accomplishing what the Lord has called us to do. We are also asking that you join us in prayer as we step out in faith. The master will return, someday soon. We want to present Him with our best work, and we are asking you to partner with us.

Thank you!

Brian & Julie

PS: We are leading a team that will be going to Monte Blanco April 11th-25th. Please be in prayer for us, as we will be leading our first team, and as our children, Emilie and Braden, will be going on their first mission trip!

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to LATCOM and send it to:

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Thank you for your donation!



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Please apply my gift to:

_____ Ministry of Brian & Julie Reagle

_____ LATCOM General Mission Support

_____ I will prayerfully support the April trip to Monte Blanco

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