

Occupy Till I Come

Text: Luke 19:11-27

Introduction

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

I. God has Enabled us TO SERVE but we have Excused ourselves

Rom 12:6 says **“Each of us has been given gifts,** according to the grace given us.” As such, none of us can say we have no talents or gifts to serve the Lord. Like Moses in Ex 3:7-10.

A. Moses’s Excuses.

i. Excuse of inferiority

Ex 3:11 - “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Phil 3:13

ii. Excuse of inadequacy or not knowing what to say:

Ex 3:13 - If I tell them I met with God in the desert, they won't believe me Lord. What if they ask what is your name?

iii. Excuse of the people’s unbelief

Ex 4:1 - Moses answered, “What if they do not believe or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

iv. Excuse of not being eloquent

Ex 4:10 - "Moses said to the Lord, "O lord I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

v. **Last Excuse: "Not me Lord, send someone else!"**

Ex 4:13 "But Moses said: 'O Lord please someone else to do it'"

B. **Gideon:** Judges 6:11-23

i. **Poor**

ii. **Weak Name**

iii. **Fearful**

iv. **Reluctant**

II. God wants us to be Involved in SERVICE

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

The Greek word translated as occupy here is:

4231 pragmateuomai { prag-mat-yoo'-om-ahee }

- 1) To be occupied in anything
- 2) To carry on a business
- 3) To carry on the business like a trader

Paul the servant of the Lord was fully occupied with service.

III. Characteristics of the SERVANT

A. Servants must be found **faithful**

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." **1 Corinthians 4:2**

B. Servants must **finish** the task

“I have brought you glory on earth **by completing the work you gave me to do.” John 17:4**

C. How is it that some believers do not occupy till He comes but give up half way?

Daniel 7:25: the enemy wants to “... wear out the saints.”

i) **Pressure** : people or financial pressure

Numbers 11:11, 14:

ii) Turning focus away from God to **self / problem**

Moses: Num 11:11-14: How can I carry, feed,

iii) **Fear**: 1 Kings 19:3 - Elijah was afraid

iv) **Fatigue**: 1 Kings 19:3-4

v) Too many **trials** in a short span of time

Job 1

vi) Little encouragement but much **criticisms**

Job 4

vii) Feeling used and **unappreciated**

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

Hebrews 6:10

IV. God will reward those who serve faithfully

1 Corinthians 3:10-14

All rewards are based on quality, not quantity v.13

- note **“careful how he builds” not WHAT he builds**