

Created in Christ Jesus to Do Good Works

Ephesians 2:8-10

- I. **God gives a wonderful invitation to share in the “Master’s happiness” as we extravagantly invest in the world around us (Matthew 25:14-46).**
 - A. What are the bags of gold? They are the blessings entrusted to God’s people to release to others (Matthew 25:14-30).
 - B. Those who give more receive more; in fact, they have an abundance (Matthew 25:28-29; Luke 6:37-38).
 - C. Those who invest in others share in the happiness of God (Matthew 25:19-23). “Come and share your Master’s happiness” (Matthew 25:21, 23).

- II. **Evidently, heaven likes our “investment” in those around us.**
 - A. Whoever gives away God’s Kingdom gets more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not continue to invest in others, even the little they possess is taken away (Matthew 25:24-30).
 - B. God expects increase. We never give up, because God is always faithful to help us move the Kingdom forward. The heart of all of this giving is the heart of God’s extravagant gift: Jesus (John 3:16). “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift” (II Corinthians 9:15)!

- III. **God loves to give through us to meet the needs of the world. In Matthew 25:31-46 we see some of God’s favorite gifts.**
 - A. Food, water, shelter, and hospitality (Matthew 25:34-35).
 - B. Clothing, healing, and visitation in prison (Matthew 25:36).
 - C. Whatever we do for the least, lowliest person, we do for Jesus (Matthew 25:37-40).
 - D. Shawn Bolz, in his book, [Keys to Heaven’s Economy](#), says an angel named “The Minister of Finance” told him that Isaiah 58:6-12 “provides the greatest key to spiritual acceleration and growing in favor with God and humanity.”
 - E. The angel also gave him some other advice for spiritual blessing: “When you love those who are not loved, you gain a greater authority. When you love them in tangible ways such as feeding them, clothing them, caring for them, visiting them, adopting them, then you can accelerate God’s activity in other areas of your life. It opens the heavens over you just like it provided Jesus a greater influence when He touched the poor and afflicted of the earth. When Jesus touched the poor and the weak and made them whole by His love, some of the greatest levels of heaven’s ministry ever known to humanity were brought to earth, and God’s light increased throughout the world. Imitate this!”

*Mike Hudgins
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