

What Accountability Should Look Like **10-24-21 AM**

There are three particular parables that discuss accountability in the Bible. The Parable of the Talents (Mt. 25), the Parable of the Unjust Steward (Lk 16), and the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Mt. 18). These parables describe an accounting that is required by the servants. They all reflect an aspect of our judgment. Judgment is the ultimate accounting before God.

What will it mean when we give an account to God of our lives? Of course, in some sense, there is no moment of standing before God recounting life; He knows all, and our judgment is set at our death. Yet the Scriptures constantly talk about our giving an account of ourselves at judgment.

Give an account for what you have said

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36

Give an account for what you have done

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

Give an account for what I have given you

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

These three examples are a good area for us to contemplate what our judgment will be like. When we give account of our words, we will be judgment for what we have said to our coworkers, friends, and brothers and sisters. We will be examined of what we wrote on Facebook, how truthful we were in our discourse, and whether we kept our mouths from sin. When we give the account of our lives, we will be examined for the type of husband, wife, parent, child, employee and employer we were. We will be examined for our participation and encouragement with the local church. Finally, we will be required to demonstrate that all of the blessings we received from God (money, health, home, time, and ability) were used in His service.

This all sounds terrifying. Of course there will be failures; this is where the blood of Christ comes in, putting His name into the balance of the account. But what we need to be able to do is to maintain that balance in our account. In that sense, we need to be able to grow. That is the heart of the divine accounting; did we improve our service to God?

If we want to improve our account before God, we need to be able to change. We need to be setting spiritual goals and find out what is expected of us, both from God and from our brethren. We need to accept responsibility for ourselves as well; we cannot make excuses for failure and weakness. Instead, we need to focus ourselves on overcoming adversity.