

Matthew 25:37-38

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?'

Hopefully we are all familiar with this parable, of how we are to do for others. But one thing that the Lord showed me today is today's devotional verse. When they asked the Lord:

Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

You see, I do many things, I teach the word of God here at this website. I'm a Christian author with one published novel and one ongoing novel available for all to read online. And I'm a musician, with 4 albums and 3 singles on iTunes, Spotify etc.... and I believe that these are all gifts that the Lord has gifted me with. It's like the parable right before this one from today's devotional verse about how the Master gave His servants talents to invest while He went away on a journey.

† **Matthew 25:14-15** *For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.*

And when the Master came back He saw how some of the servants invested the talents and doubled the money, but one only buried it in the dirt and did nothing with it, and he was rebuked for not using what the Lord had given him to invest with.

But in the parable that is our devotional verse, what stuck me is that the righteous were given gifts to use by ministering to those in need and it became so natural for them that they did not consider it a ministry, but rather a way of life. *Lord, when did we see You?*

I struggle sometimes with all the Lord has given me to do, because I am always looking for fruit, and if I don't see any I question myself and what I am doing. But really I shouldn't, because there are many things I do, that are so natural to me that they are a way of life, and as the Lord showed me, that I am ministering to others, just like those spoken of in the parable, with out even realizing it.

Maybe you struggle with this yourself, wondering if you are really making a difference in the lives of others and bringing glory to the Lord. Maybe ask the Lord to show you, so that you don't become discouraged. Let Him know that you want to be fruitful, and if you are not, then to show you how, and even ask the Holy Spirit you help you with the gift(s) He has given you.

† **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

Maybe you get like me sometimes and get a little discouraged because you want the light of Jesus to shine through you, but you are not seeing it. Ask the Lord to show you those things that you are actually doing that is really shining the light of Jesus, but it's so common to you, you don't even think about it or realize that you are doing it.

† **Joshua 1:9 (NLT2)** *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*