MONDAY MANNA
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THANKING GOD, KNOWING ONE DAY HE WILL THANK US

By Robert J. Tamasy

When was the last time you invested a lot of time and energy in an important project and after you were finished, your boss or someone said, “Wow! You really did a great job. Thank you so much!”?

We work for many reasons: To earn a livelihood, being able to pay the bills and afford things we need and want. To participate in work that utilizes the skills, training and experience we have developed. Hopefully to engage in something that brings us a sense of significance and fulfillment. Along the line, it also helps to receive expressions of appreciation when we have given our best, investing considerable time and energy to accomplish whatever we had been asked to do.

Over the years I have worked for a number of different bosses; each had a different style for managing people. Some were quick to give credit and praise when they felt it was due, while others seemed to take the attitude, “If I find something wrong, I will let you know. Otherwise, if you do not hear anything from me, presume that everything was okay.” People are entitled to their own approach to leadership. When to say thanks and show appreciation, and when not to do so, is a subject we could debate, but it is definitely an important way for letting an employee know that he or she is valued.

This week in the United States we are having the annual Thanksgiving Day holiday. A number of other countries have similar observances, setting a day aside to give thanks to God for His blessings, His provision, and His faithfulness. And rightfully so. But have you ever considered that for followers of Jesus Christ, there will be a time when He gives a “thank you” to us?

We see this in what is often called “the parable of the talents,” which Jesus used to teach about our responsibility to serve as reliable stewards of what has been entrusted to us. In the story, recounted in Matthew 25:14-30, a wealthy property owner entrusts several servants with talents – valued at thousands of dollars – in different amounts “according to his ability.” While the owner is gone on a long journey, two stewards find ways to invest the talents wisely. But one simply buries his single talent in the ground, to give back to the owner when he returns.

Upon his arrival, the owner asks each to report on how he used the talents entrusted to him. One servant used his five talents to gain five more. Another who was given two talents had invested them, doubling the total amount. Both receive the property owner’s commendation: “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.”

The response is different, however, for the servant who did nothing with the talent entrusted to him other than to hide it until the owner’s return. The owner becomes angry, reasoning at the very least the servant should have put the money in the bank so it could earn a small amount of interest. Instead of thanks, the unfaithful servant receives severe punishment.

What does this have to say to us today as workers in the marketplace? We each have been entrusted by God with unique gifts, abilities and experiences that He wants us to use in serving as His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) and to shine His light in a dark, sin-darkened world. The Lord desires for us to be good stewards of what He has given to us, so one day we will hear His thanks, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

© 2026. Robert J. Tamasy has written Marketplace Ambassadors: CBMC's Continuing Legacy of Evangelism and Discipleship; Business at Its Best: Timeless Wisdom from Proverbs for Today's Workplace; Pursuing Life With a Shepherd's Heart, coauthored with Ken Johnson; and The Heart of Mentoring, coauthored with David A. Stoddard, and numerous other books and magazine articles. Bob's biweekly blog is: www.bobtamasy.blogspot.com.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Whether you observe a formal Thanksgiving Day or not, what are some things for which you are especially thankful? Is gratitude a consistent part of your relationship with God?
2. What is your initial reaction to Jesus' "parable of the stewards"? The story states the property owner was known for being harsh and demanding at times. Do you think the steward who only buried the talent entrusted to him was justified in what he did? Explain your answer.
3. Many of us are familiar with the importance of giving thanks to God for what He does in our lives and for His blessings. But what are your thoughts about Him expressing thanks to us?
4. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, that means He has made you a steward over certain things, including material possessions, your professional abilities and experience, the work responsibilities you have, relationships, and influence. What are specific things you believe have been entrusted to your faithful stewardship?

Challenge for This Week

This week share with someone the things you are thankful for – and why. Are there any blessings from God that you have not fully appreciated?

Also consider what the Lord has entrusted to your stewardship. If you were to give yourself a personal evaluation, how would you rate yourself as a steward of them?

NOTE:

If you have a Bible and would like to read more, consider the following passages:
Proverbs 10:5, 12:24, 13:11, 14:23, 22:29, 27:18; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Colossians 3:17,23-24