

“The Values of FLC: Strategic Cooperation”

Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴ *“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.*

¹⁶ *He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.*

¹⁹ *Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'*

²² *And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'*

²⁴ *He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'*

²⁶ *But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.*

²⁸ *So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'*

What is being 'strategic' in FLC?

Being strategic in FLC means ensuring our church's Mission is consistently focusing on those directional choices that will best move our church toward our Vision, with a measure of faith that God has granted to us and in the most fitting and orderly fashion.

The Parable of the Talents

Overarching message – to make the most of every spiritual opportunity.

1. We are in Management Mode on things that God has entrusted to us. John 12:35, 36; Matthew 25:13
2. God will provide everything we need to do what He has called us to do. Philippians 4:19
3. Each of us has a heavy bag of 'talents'. 1 Peter 4:10

Being a Faithful Servant

Other words to describe being faithful –

Conscientious

Steadfast

Diligent

Circumspect

Dependable

Strategic

Devoted

How does a Strategic Church Look Like?

1. Plan
2. Anticipate
3. Think Critically
4. Decide
5. Align
6. Learn

Cooperation

- Work as a team : *"And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits."* Mark 6:7
"And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men." Mark 2:3
- Learn from each other : *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."* Proverbs 27:17
- Division of labour : *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."* I Corinthians 3:6
- Support the leaders : *"But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun."* Exodus 17:12
- *"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ..."*
I Corinthians 12:14-20
- *"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*
Phil. 2:1-4