

“Get Off The Bus!”

My daily devotional the other day had an explanation of the parable in Mt. 25 about the talents - what the recipients of those talents did with them, and what their master had to say. I gained a clearer understanding of this parable, and it also stirred something up in me I'd like to share.

When my wife Vicki and I went to Israel in the early 90s with a large church group, there were many fascinating sights to see, and most of them required a trip on a tour bus with a guide aboard. Our guide turned out to be a local resident who had grown up in Israel, and he had a wealth of knowledge and history of all the places we visited, and how they all tied in with what we read in the Bible.

What does this have to do with talents you might ask? Many of us come to a building and get on the “church bus” to explore new areas and learn new truths. We count on the worship leader to get us “warmed up” for the main event, and then look to the pastor to enlighten us spiritually, and when the service is over, we exit the “bus” and go on our way. What’s wrong with that? Simply put - we have not “exited the bus” and EXPERIENCED God’s Presence on our own!!

When we got on the tour bus in Israel, our guide would “prime” us with information on the way to whatever site we were going to, so that when we arrived, we could exit the bus and have a hands on experience exploring what the guide told us to look for - in other words, we EXPERIENCED what we were taught! Church is not the destination - it’s the signpost - leaders can get us to the “site,” (God’s presence) but we need to experience Him on our own - daily!!

Every time we come to church, God is “investing” in us through our worship and through His word, but what are we doing with what He has given us? Have we actually shared that precious investment with others during the week? At home? At work? At school? In our community? If we are not sharing His light and life with others, if we simply “bury it” and keep it to ourselves, when our Master returns, He is going to tell us we have SQUANDERED what He gave us to invest!

I fear that many folks are going to arrive in heaven not as individual wise investors who have brought much gain to His kingdom, but as “tour bus Christians,” simply along for the ride, and in my humble opinion, they will never hear the words “Well done, good and faithful servant,” like the master in the parable told his wise investors. Church! It’s time to GET OFF THE BUS and EXPERIENCE all that the Lord has to offer, and when you do, you will want to spread the wealth to others! Amen!