

Expanding the Kingdom
Ambassador Training Part 2 – Money Matters
2 Cor. 5.17-20//Matthew 25.14-28

March 10, 2010

REVIEW: Ambassador Training School, Part 1

1. What is an ambassador?

An ambassador is the highest ranking diplomat that represents a nation and is usually accredited to a foreign sovereign or government, or to an international organization.

In everyday usage it usually applies to the ranking government representative stationed in a foreign capital. The host country typically allows the ambassador control of specific territory called an embassy, whose territory, staff, and even vehicles are generally afforded diplomatic immunity in the host country.

- Ambassador (GR) presbeuoo;- to be older, prior by birth or in age

Middle English ambassadour, from Anglo-French ambassadeur, ultimately of Germanic origin; akin to Old High German ambaht service

2. What do ambassadors do?

- Ministry and word of reconciliation

We have been given something very specific to communicate. To plead for reconciliation

3. What must ambassadors know? Matt 6:10-12

10 We ask that your kingdom will come now. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. 11 Give us our food again today, as usual, 12 and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. TLB

- What country, kingdom or domain they represent.

Heavenly kingdom – its invisible and in our hearts! Luke 10:9-10

- What are the goals of their domain. Jn. 18.36

To rule the hearts of men and release the love, peace and power of God

- What are the areas of connection between the place they represent and the nation or kingdom they live in.

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Intro - Tonight we focus on the place of resources in the life of the ambassador. There are some parallels that can be drawn from the ambassadors of the nations of the world.

1. The ambassador has everything available but yet owns nothing.
2. The ambassador utilizes all his resources to promote the will of his king.
3. The ambassador's resources (budget) are commensurate with his task.

John 18:36-38

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." 37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Intro – We now understand the relevance of Mt.6.33. All of our new life depends on this understanding. In order for us to please God prosper in this life and walk in fulfillment we must put the kingdom first and in doing so we secure the release of blessings to the next generation. There is an “entry into joy” that kingdom ambassadors experience that is very powerful when they can handle the stewardship piece of the job.

Let's take a look at a story Jesus shared and learn all we can from it.

1. Understanding and embracing stewardship

The two who profited recognized that what they were given was not their own but the one punished acted as if the talent was his.

- When the resources belong to another you handle carefully
- When the resources belong to another you invest where they will benefit the owner
- When the resources belong to another you do not make independent decisions

2. Projecting resources toward the kingdom's tasks

- Paying the bills of the embassy is a kingdom responsibility
- Resourcing the kingdom vision is the highest priority

We learn from this story that the kingdom goal is multiplication! Invest where people, families and churches are multiplying.

The king of the kingdom takes waste seriously Matt 25:26-27

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26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.'" *27 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.'*

So busy judging the Master that he forgot his own purpose!

3. Your resources will normally be consistent with your task!

- He will provide resources according to past history
- He will provide resources according to current assignment
- He will provide resources according to future potential