

# Judged By What Could Have Been

(Matthew 25:14-30)

- Introduction:
1. The God we serve is an all-knowing God. He knows the history that was written as well as the history that could have been written.
    - a. (Matthew 12:20-24).
  2. God's knowledge of all things and our responsibility to use our talents implies that we will be judged for what we do as well as what we could have done!
  3. Let's examine several reasons why people fail to live up to their potential.

## I. Fear

- A. Fear of making a mistake, doing something wrong, saying something wrong.
- B. So we do nothing and think that's right?
- C. (Matthew 25:25).
- D. (Revelation 21:8).
- E. (2 Timothy 1:7).

## II. Self Serving

- A. Being all we can be, requires discipline, hard work, and selflessness.
- B. Some people get too wrapped up into themselves to serve others.
- C. Some are more interested in fun and pleasure than denial and service.
- D. (Hebrews 11:25).
- E. Our rest is yet to come (Hebrews 4:9-11).

## III. Immaturity

- A. People get mad, get their feelings hurt, or get discouraged and refuse to involve themselves in the work of the Lord.
- B. How many times have we heard a child say, "I quit?"
- C. (1 Corinthians 16:13).
- D. (1 Corinthians 13:11).

- Conclusion:
1. Let's look at our lives from this awareness of "what could have been."
  2. None of us will ever be "all that we could be" (Luke 17:10).
  3. But we can be more of what we should be!
  4. Live your life so that you won't be condemned by what you should have been or done.