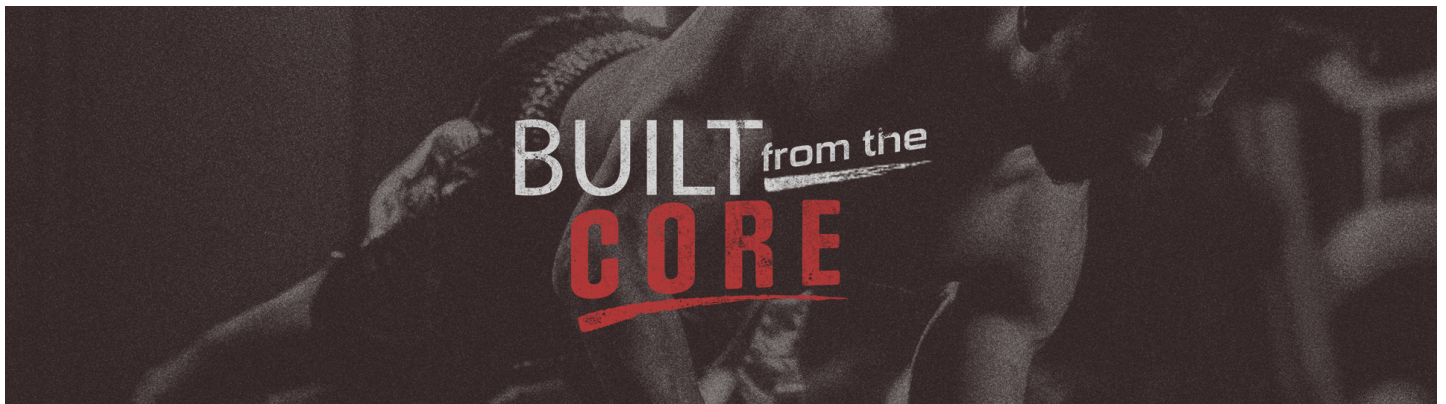




Built from the Core // Part 6

Introduction:

This week Chance continues a new series called '**Built From The Core**' with the message for **Week 6: Giving our best for God**. Do you know what the Core of Grace Community Church is, why it's important and why it matters?

As we continue to look at our Core Beliefs, the fifth is '**Excellent Environments**'. The scripture for this message is from Matthew 25 and the parable of the servants who are given money by their king and how they used what they had been given. If God gave us His best, what should your response to that be? Do you know you have been called to a mission for Jesus? In your daily life have you been distracted from what Jesus has called you to do?

Questions:

1. What would you say is the value for Grace Community Church to have Excellent Environments? What does having Excellent Environments look like for a church? Do you wonder how that relates to you? Would you agree that excellence isn't about impressing people, it's about removing distractions so people can encounter Jesus?
2. Since each of the servants is given a different amount, why is it important that each of the servants is given according to their abilities? What did each of them do with what they have been given? How do you respond with what God has given you? **Matthew 25:16-18**

3. When they are all called to account for what they had been given, why is it important that the master asked how they used 'his money'? Does the master returning and asking how they used his blessings scare you? **Matthew 25:19-21**
4. Why do the first and second servants come forward excited to share the results of their labors? Is it exciting that they hear 'well done', and will receive more responsibilities? Is the response heard by the first two servants what you long to hear from Jesus? **Matthew 25:22-23**
5. What is different about how the third servant approached the master? Why does he just give the master his money back, what was his reason for not using the master's money? Are you at risk of burying what God has given you because you are afraid? What if Property (stuff we have) is to reach people for the purposes of God? **Matthew 25:24-25**
6. Do you feel that the master's response to the third servant is too harsh? Do you know that all of us will have to give an account of how we have used what we have been given? Are you concerned that you don't have gifts to use for God? What if you are sitting on the gifts God did give you? **Matthew 25:28-30**
7. Which of the servants can you best relate to? How are you spending your time on earth serving others with what you have been given? Do you agree that as a church we want to be good stewards of all that we have? What has God placed in your hands (talent, money, resources) and how can you do your best this week to use it to serve Him? Are you living a surrendered life, is that what you are doing? **Matthew 25:34-40**

Key takeaway: God has blessed us, not so we can keep it to ourselves, but so we can use it to serve others. Scripture calls us to steward every gift He's entrusted to us with excellence. That's why we strive to give our very best in every environment, from our weekend services and groups to our families, our community, and every opportunity we have to point people to Jesus!

Summary:

- Excellence isn't about impressing people, it's about removing distractions so people can encounter Jesus
- A king leaves 5, 2 and 1 bags of money with 3 of his servants before leaving for a trip; 2 servants use what they have been given & double as they used it, the other did the opposite. Why?
- When the king returns from a long trip, he gets an accounting of what the servants did with the his money, the 1st comes forward proud of what he did, hears 'well done' and gets more responsibilities
- The 2nd also comes forward and is also rewarded with a 'well done', even though he received a different amount, also gets more responsibilities
- The 3rd (who buried the money) just gives the king his money back, no ownership & no pride because he did nothing with what he had been given responsibility for. What are you doing with what you have been given? Property (stuff we have) is a place to reach people for the purposes of God
- We will all be held accountable for how well we use what we have been given... using the gifts doesn't earn salvation, it demonstrates a surrendered life
- What has God placed in your hands (talent) and how can you do your best this week to use it to serve Him?