

## TALENTS #1

I'd like to share some thoughts and some scriptures with you.

Jesus told a pretty familiar parable about the kingdom of God recorded in Matthew 25.14-30.

It's the story of a slave owner who was going on an extended journey. He gave one of his slaves five talents, another, two talents, and another one talent.

While he was away the first slave traded with the five talents in the marketplace and gained five more talents. The second slave did the same gaining two more talents. The third slave was afraid and buried the one talent in the ground.

When the Master returned home, He called the slaves to account for their efforts. The first two slaves were praised for their efforts, saying well done good and faithful slave.

The third slave was called wicked, lazy and worthless and was cast into the outer darkness.

My entire Christian life I've been told that God wanted to use my natural talents for the benefit of His Kingdom. I've been encouraged to expend my natural abilities to accomplish God's purposes. This parable was often used as justification for this idea.

Let's examine this parable a little closer.

In our modern times when we use the word talent, we are speaking of an acquired skill or ability. In this parable a talent was a unit of weight. It was used to weigh gold and silver and was roughly about a hundred pounds,

In this parable the slave who buried his one talent in the ground was deceived. He told the master that he reaped where he did not sow.

In our modern times 8 talents of gold or silver would represent millions and millions of dollars. The master's sowing of his money was considerable and he expected a considerable harvest for his investment.

Also notice in this parable that the master entrusted HIS possessions to them. He did not ask the slaves to go to their houses and pawn their valued possessions or empty their bank accounts to invest for him.

He gave them HIS possessions and asked them to invest HIS possessions for HIS benefit.

God is Spirit. He is supernatural, perfect, and eternal.

In John 6.63 Jesus said,

It is the Spirit Who gives life, the flesh profits nothing, the words that I've spoken to you are Spirit and they are Life.

When we accepted Christ's gift of salvation, God didn't just forgive our sins and then tell us to go do the best we can to do His will with our old nature inherited from Adam and Eve.

We actually received God's eternal life.

John 1.12 states that,

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, not the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but they are born of God.

1 John 5.11 reads,

The witness is this, God has given us eternal life, this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life, he who does not have the Son does not have the life.

Our salvation is not just the act of God forgiving our sins. It's God re-creating us back to our original created purpose. God originally created man in His own image as His supreme creation to manifest His eternal life to the entire Earth.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5.17

Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old things have passed away, and new things have come.

In several places in the scriptures, the Apostle Paul explained how this re-creation happened. It's supernatural. It's something that only God Himself could accomplish.

God put all of mankind in Christ by His own doing and whatever happened to Christ, happened to us.

We were crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, and raised from the dead to a completely new life. You can read about that in 1 Corinthians 1.30 and Romans 6.

In Paul's explanation of resurrect in 1 Corinthians 15.45, he states that the first Adam became a living soul, Christ, the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. God put us in Christ by His own effort, and by His perfect work on our behalf, we also were re-created as life-giving Spirits.

This re-creation was to accomplish God's purpose of redeeming all mankind.

2 Corinthians 5.18

Paul writes that, now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us, we beg you in behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Down through the years, many pastors have thought that if I could just get some really gifted and talented people in my church, we could really reach a lot more people. The people who seemingly were less talented and gifted always felt left out or short-changed in those ministries.

God is not looking people with great ability. He is looking for people with great availability.

1 Corinthians 1.27 says,

God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God.

He is looking for people who will let Him be the life-giving Spirit in them. People that will let Him say everything that He wants to say, do everything that He wants to do and accomplish everything that He wants to accomplish, in us and through us to this entire world.

Isaiah 55.8

God said, My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts,

God is supernatural. He is not subject to the laws and processes of this world.

Let me ask you a question.

If someone has gone to college and earned an MBA degree or an accounting degree, how do you think they would respond when Jesus has over 5,000 people listening to His parables on the hillside and He says, let's feed these people some lunch. He would probably respond like the rest of the disciples, absolutely not! We don't have anywhere near enough money to feed these people. Then Jesus says, I know, but this little boy's mom packed him a lunch, and he's willing to share. Let's go ahead and serve it up. OK?

Or when Jesus tells him that the Pharisees say we owe the temple tax. Grab your fishing pole and the first fish you catch will have a coin in its mouth to pay our taxes. I bet he wouldn't even bait up his hook.

God is not asking us to survey our own resources and decide whether we are able to do what He says or not.

He's asking us to repent of ourselves and allow Him to be everything necessary to accomplish His word.

1 Peter 4.10 amp reads,

As each of you has received a gift, a particular spiritual talent, a gracious divine endowment, employ it for one another as befits good trustees of God's many-sided grace, being faithful steward of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians by unmerited favor.

God's intention was never to recruit us to work for Him. He wants us to be born of His Spirit, to be infused with His life, baptized in, empowered by, and overflowing with His Holy Spirit, to make us His witnesses in the entire Earth.

Jesus said, just as the Father has sent me, I am sending you into this world. Whenever Jesus sent someone out, He never sent them out to do what they were able to do. He sent them out to do what He could do. He always empowered them with His abilities before He sent them out.

Before His resurrection, Matthew 10.1 states,

And having summoned His 12 disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

In verse 7 He instructed them, as you go preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, freely you have received, freely give.

After His resurrection, in Acts 1.8,

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, even to the remotest parts of the earth.

God has committed Himself as the unlimited supply to equip us to accomplish His purpose of redeeming all men in Christ and filling the whole earth with His glory.

John 16.13 amp.

When He, the Spirit of Truth, the truth giving Spirit comes, He will guide you in all the truth, the whole, full truth.

Verse 14. He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of, and receive, what is Mine and He will reveal, declare, disclose and transmit it to you.

Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said, He will, take the things that are Mine and will reveal, disclose, and transmit them to you.

Fulfilling God's Great Commission requires God's supernatural ability.

2 Peter 1.3+4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to Life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature.

In Colossians 1.28 Paul declares,

Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom, that we may present every person mature, fully grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect in Christ, the Anointed One. For this I labor unto weariness, striving with all the super-human energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.

Only God's Spirit within us will accomplish His purposes.

1 Peter 4.11

Whoever speaks, let him speak, the utterances of God, whoever serves let him do so by the strength which God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

The outpouring of God's love, God's eternal life, and the word of reconciliation that He has committed to us, requires the in-filling by His Holy Spirit.

John 7.37

On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus cried out saying, if anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture says, from his innermost being will flow rivers of Living Water.

In John 14.12 Jesus said, truly, truly, I say unto you, (my paraphrase, I really, really mean this,

he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do, and greater works than these shall he do because I go to the Father.

It's God's Spirit Who give Life, he is the Live-giver, our flesh conveys no benefit whatever.

It's imperative that we let our natural life inherited from Adam and Eve be swallowed up by God's eternal life that we inherit from the Father as His children.

BECAUSE

What is impossible to men, is possible with God.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller



