# Using God’s Gifts to serve

# <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkh03G5qz08>

# Name a gift or talent you have?

# Jesus told the following parable to his disciples

# Matthew 25:14-30

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servantsand entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is a great parable that can teach us about the Talents and Gifts that God gives us.

**1. We need to use the Gifts & Talents that God gives us.**

As Christians we have a mission that the Lord expects us to accomplish while we are here on Earth. Many Christians believe once they accept Jesus all that is left to do is sit around and wait for Heaven. This parable teaches us something different.

The Parable of the Talents teaches us that we are to work, using our talents to glorify God.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters,

This includes using your gifts even when things aren’t going your way. Like with joseph who was glorifying God and interpreting dreams while in prison for something he didn’t do or like Paul and Silas singing and teaching about Christ from Prison. Both could have been bitter and mad at God but they choose to use the gifts they were given, to glorify God, even when things weren’t going as planned. No one would have blamed them for being bitter or angry after all they were serving God

**2. God gives us all we need to do what he has called us to do.**

As God’s servants, we have all been given work to do and God provides all we need to accomplish that work.

[Ephesians 2:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A10&version=NIV):For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:6 tells us to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you!!!

**In the parable the master gave each person the Talents he needed to bring a return on his investment. God will give us what we need to Glorify him but God wants to see a return on his investment. He wants to see us take action**

**3. We are not all Given the same talents**

The master gives to each servant, “…according to his ability.” God knows what we can handle. We might want to call God unfair when we see people who have more than we do but we need to remember:

Luke 12:48 … everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked

If you want God to give you more than show him you can be trusted with what he has already given you.

Luke 16:10 10"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

**4. We are working to Glorify God not our own selfish Pride.**

The Parable of the Talents is about how we use the talents God has given use to Glorify him, so others may come to know him.

The Talents provided to the servants was not given to them to Keep, it was given to them to use to glorify their master. We are God’s investments and he seeks to gain a return from us. As with any investment, if it does not produce a fair return, we will move our money elsewhere. We should maximize the use of our talents not for our own selfish purposes, but to Glorify God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

**5. We are accountable to God.**

The unfaithful steward in this parable didn’t so much waste the master’s money – he wasted an opportunity to use the talents he was given. As a result, he was judged wicked and lazy. We are responsible for what we have been given to do for God what we have been called to do, and one day we will be held accountable.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

If you feel that God hasn’t given you any gifts or talents then search yourself to see if you didn’t or haven’t used the ones he has given you in which case God will take the talent from you and give it to someone who will use it.

Matthew 25:28 &29 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Bottom line is we need to use the gifts and talents God gives us to serve others and glorify God. After all he is the one who gave us those gifts and talents. If we don’t use them wisely, he very well could take them away. I am sure we can all think of someone who lost a great talent because they took them for granted or didn’t use them wisely.

1 Peter 4:10 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Use your talents wisely and thank God daily for them or you might just lose them.

**Serving God**

Now that we know that God gives us each talents and gifts to serve others and to Glorifying Him. Let’s talk about how we can use those talents.

God calls everyone to serve and He gives each of us different talents to serve with.  It could be through teaching, preaching, singing, music, writing, Art or just helping others. it could be washing cars or sharing a kind word. God gives everyone a talent and it can be anything that you do as long as you do it for the glory of God and Not for the praise of those around you

The reason you do it Has to be to glorify God. I can’t be to glorify yourself then it’s not really serving. The **Definition of service is the action of helping or doing work for someone else.** If you are doing it to glorify yourself then you’re not doing it for someone else you are doing it for you

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

If you are doing it for yourself then it is not considered serving.  you can’t do something saying I’m doing it for God and try to take all the glory by telling everyone “Look what I’m doing for God.”

Jesus came to this earth to show us how to serve.

### [*Mark 10:45*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A45&version=ESV)*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Jesus taught, He healed, He helped others. He washed the feet of his disciples and even died for but he always pointed to his father to glorify him.

[*Mark 9:35*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9%3A35&version=ESV)*And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”*

If you’re going to glorify God you can’t make it all about you. You have to make it about him.

Don’t look for excuse Not to use your talents and Gifts to serve. The enemy will try to give you many reasons not to serve: It may be that somebody else is doing something or something else is in the way or it is just too hard. Maybe something just isn’t right.

 This has to be between you and God. Your heart has to be in it all the way. You have to do it because you want to and no matter what others around you are doing or saying, that shouldn’t matter. This is between you and God and it should be about you glorifying Him.

I feel that my gift is teaching. At least that is what I enjoy doing. I started teaching kids over 15 years ago and have learned that teaching is a hard service.

I have come to appreciate school teachers a lot more because most of the time the people that you are teaching don’t care or want to hear what you are teaching. How do you go to work everyday teaching a bunch of kids about something, like history, knowing that 95% of them could care less? The answer is in the hope that 5% may get something out of it.

I know there have been a few times where I felt like no one was listening or cared about what I was teaching but this is the service God has called me to do and I hope that more than 5% of you will get something out of it.

Just remember what Jesus said:

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

### [Mark 9:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9%3A35&version=ESV) “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

### Meaning: Look around and find the one who is always serving. Not always thinking about themselves but putting others first – this is the greatest among you. Those who are serving others are the greatest in God’s eyes.

### So, look around for those who are always serving others, putting others first and not always thinking about themselves. Remember they are the greatest in God’s sight. Hopefully you are one of them!

### IT doesn’t matter how old you are or how valuable you believe your talents to be. Look at David, the youngest of 8 sons who sat around tending sheep playing with a sling shot.

1 Samuel 17:34-36 David said to Saul, “Your servant was tending his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock, I went out after it and attacked it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth; and when it rose up against me, I grabbed it by its mane and struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.”

David used his talents to bring down Goliath when an entire army of trained men wouldn’t step forward. You never know when God is going to call on you to use your talents. (David was around 15 year old at this time)

### Always use your talents to glorify God and serve others or you may just find out you no longer have them

### 1 Peter 4:10-11 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### Find your talent and us it for God! don’t worry about what everyone else says, does or thinks just focus on Serving the Lord with those talents. And if you let your talents Honor God then He will Honor you.

### [John 12:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12%3A26&version=ESV) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

### If you sing, sing as if you are singing to God. If you play an instrument do it as if you were in God’s band. If you play a sport play as if you were on God’s team. and if you are washing cars do it as if it were God’s car you are washing and in the end you will hear God say” Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master