

**Sunday, November 14, 2021**

**Scripture:** I Timothy 4:14 (NASB)

Matthew 25:14-30 (NASB)

**Topic:** Using Your Gift To Make a Difference

**Body:**

**A- You are the Lord's Servant**

- We are called to God's will and NOT our own
- God spoke to all 3 of the servants the same
- In Jesus' day, servants had nothing of their own- everything belonged to their Master
- Your gifts/talents all belong to God — You can't claim them

This is hard for humanity because we want to be<sup>4</sup> independent - autonomous individuals

**B- You are Unique**

**(Romans 12:6)**

- Avoid every opportunity to compare yourself to others
- You have a unique blend, background and personality
- Focus on your unique gifting and DO what you can do!

The third servant might have looked at the other 2 servant and thought I didn't have 5 or even 2 like them— just one talent

Stop sitting on your one gift and don't worry about what you don't have and give your gift the ability to grow!

## **C- You are Greatly Gifted**

Talents in the story were referred to as a “weight” — a talent of gold was worth a lifetime of wages

So, \$25,000 a year for 40 years would total \$1M bucks

The 5 talent man got to manage \$5M

The 2 talent man got to manage \$2M

The 1 talent man got to manage \$1M

Question: How many of you would feel bad if someone walked up to you and gave you \$1M to invest?

We put more focus on those with a lot and neglect the fact that what seems like a little gifting or talent is still a LOT!!

The one talent servant was still gifted

## **D- You Must Put Your Gifts to Work**

**(1 Peter 4:10) “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”**

**How?**

**1-** First identify your gifts/talents (What are you good at?)

**2-** Identify your passion

- ie: If you like painting - Hold art classes for nursing home residents

**3-** Find a Need and Meet It

We are surrounded by needs in our church, community and world

You are surrounded by opportunities to make a difference

Work it....and start transitional homes (help people in need)  
Work it....and start writing books (Boost education and equip minds)  
Work it...and provide scholarships for students to further their education

Pick up your gift and make a difference!! (2 Tim. 1:6) Fan into flame!!

Why not YOU!?

Your gifts will make a difference, if you work them!

### **E- You Will Succeed If You Try**

Why didn't the 1 talent servant succeed like the others? Because he didn't try!!

Not saying you will never have some failures — But your failures are “preparation” for your success!!

The 3rd servant was “trapped” in failure

The only way to risk God's displeasure - is if you let fear “paralyze” you!

### **F - You Will Have to Give An Account**

The Master required servant required all three servants to give an accounting

God expects a return on His generous investment for the life and gifts He has given us

God's heart — to give us gifts and talents to reach those who don't know Him

This is how we make a difference and change the trajectory of lives

Are you willing to use your gifts to Make A Difference? Are you willing to move on from one might be stopping you?