

20th August 2017

Speaker: Martin Armstrong



To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
to Jesus Christ

Parable of the Talents - Reading Matthew 25:14-30

1. A way of classifying people would be in terms of whether they are 'givers' or 'takers'. Apply this to your work place, friends, family and relatives (no names please)
2. Each servant received talents "according to their ability." Romans 12:6 tells us *we have different gifts, according to the grace given us*. We have to accept our limitations and realise that there will always be people more gifted or with different than ourselves.
What are your primary ministry gifts? Are you passionate about the gifts He's given you, and how you can best use them?
3. Some talents may lie dormant for years, waiting to be awakened. Some people are late developers or may have been wounded by negative labelling from the past.
Discuss and give examples (maybe share your own testimony)
4. Some talents only develop through hard work - as we start at the bottom and take our God given opportunities. If we are Faithful in the little things God can trust us with the more important things.
Discuss & give examples
5. AW Tozer said "*what we think about God is the most important thing about us*" If we view God as mean and nasty, that will influence the way we act and behave. Some of us may be angry with God because we think He's let us down. When we blame God - we end up burying our gifts and making excuses instead.
Have you ever felt like this?
6. *Proverbs 15:22 Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success*. Sometimes people can be completely blind to their talents yet others may see them very clearly. Anyone in this group?
7. "Don't compare yourself to others". The one you judge may be using two out of two talents, while you're using 3 out of 5". Fair comment?

8. *Ephesians 3:20 God is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we can ask or think* “Ministry talents are responsibilities, rather than natural abilities. God will give us the spiritual gifts we need to get the job done”.
Have you ever been in a situation where a spiritual gifting has helped you Cope with a need?
9. Jesus said my: "*My yoke is easy and my burden is light*" *Matthew 11.3* "*In His presence there is fullness of Joy*" *Acts 2.28*. Is it right to assume that if we are in the centre of God's will we will enjoy what we are doing?
10. The one talent servant did not care about his master or his property. He tried to get by with as little work and inconvenience as possible. He was lazy and selfish and criticised his master. What happened to him v30? What does this mean?
11. Are you a five, two or one talent servant? How many of your talents are you using? Where might you best invest your talents? Pray for each other, that you will faithfully use the gifts you have been given, and will be entrusted with more.