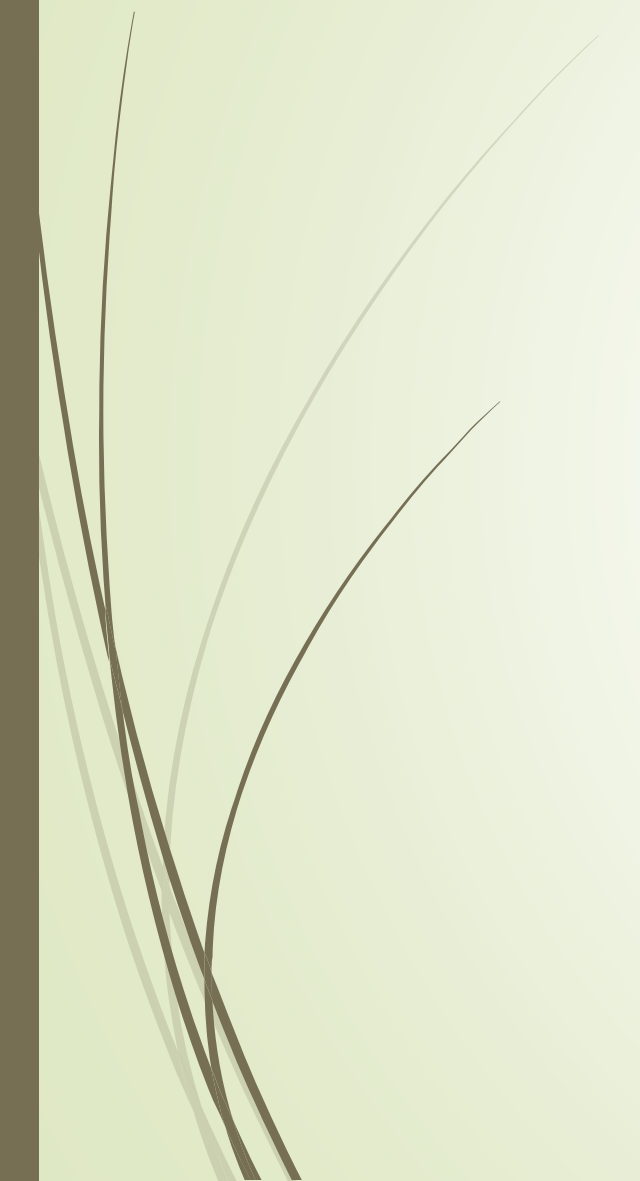




Talents: God Given for God's Glory

Talents: God Given for God's Glory

- Everyone has been blessed by God with abilities, opportunities, and resources.
 - Some can teach- *Eph. 4:&7,11-12
 - Some can encourage- Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)
 - Some can serve quietly- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:26- Apollos was taken him aside)
 - Some can lead singing, some give generously



God Is The Source of All Talents

- **No matter what our talent is God gave it, and God expects us to use it for His glory.**
- **James 1:17-** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.
- **Everything we have- our abilities, our opportunities, our strengths comes from God.**
- We did not create ourselves
- We did not design our own abilities
- We did not earn our talents

God Is The Source of All Talents

- ➡ ***1 Cor. 4:6-7-** “What do you have that you did not receive?”
- ➡ This verse humbles us. It reminds us that pride has no place in the Church of our Lord.
- ➡ If God gave the talent; then God deserves the glory.
- ➡ **When we recognize God as the giver, we stop comparing ourselves to others and start asking, “How can I use what God gave me?”**

Talents Are For Stewardship, Not Selfishness

- ➡ We are **stewards**, not **owners**
- ➡ Recognizing talents should humble us. Not that “I earned this” but God “entrusted this” to me.
 - ➡ **Earned**- to get money for work or to win something through hard effort and merit
 - ➡ **Entrusted**- to be given care of or custody of something valuable
- ➡ **1 Pet. 4:8-10***- “ as each has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”
- ➡ **Every Christian has received something. And every Christian is expected to use that something for God’s Glory.**

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents

➡ *Matt. 25:14-30-

- ➡ Faithfulness is rewarded
- ➡ Fearful inactivity is condemned
- ➡ Comparison is unnecessary (5, 2, 1)
- ➡ Talents must be used for God's purposes
- ➡ (I knew.....????-Ver. 24)

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents

- ➡ The servant who buried his talent didn't commit an immoral act. He simply did nothing. And God called that "wicked and lazy"
- ➡ God **expects** use, not **neglect**
- ➡ God rewards **faithfulness**, not **comparison**
- ➡ God condemns fearful **inactivity** (Afraid???)
- ➡ God judges each servant **individually** (2 Cor.5:10)

Using Talents According to Scripture

- **Col 3:17-** “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”
- A talent for teaching must be used in harmony with Scripture (1 Cor. 4:6- “do not go beyond what is written..)
- A talent for leadership must be exercised with humility (Moses- Numbers 12:3)
- A talent for singing is used in the Church as a cappella worship (Eph. 5:19), **not for performance.**
- **Talents are not for self-promotion. They are for God’s glory**

The Body of Christ Needs Every Member

- ➡ **1 Cor. 12:12-27***- Every part is essential (Head=Christ Eph.1:22-23)
- ➡ Some talents are **visible**- preaching, teaching,.....
- ➡ Other talents are **quiet**-encouragement, generosity..
- ➡ All are equally valuable when used faithfully!!!
- ➡ **Never say, “I don’t matter”, “my talent is too small”, “someone else will do it”**
- ➡ **Song-** There Is a Balm in Gilead
- ➡ **God placed you in the body on purpose!!! (Ver.18)**



Talents Bring Glory To God When They Point Others To Him

- ➡ **Matt. 5:16**- “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven**”
- ➡ **1 Cor. 3:6**- “I have planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the increase.**”
- ➡ **God Gets the Glory!!!**

Talents Bring Glory To God When They Point Others To Him

- ➡ **1 Cor. 10:31**- “whatever you do....do all to the glory of God”
- ➡ We glorify God when:
 - ➡ Our talents reflect His Character
 - ➡ Our service strengthens His Church
 - ➡ Our actions lead others to Christ
 - ➡ Our abilities are used with humility.
- ➡ **Your talent is a spotlight. Aim it at God, not at yourself**

Practical Ways to Use Talents

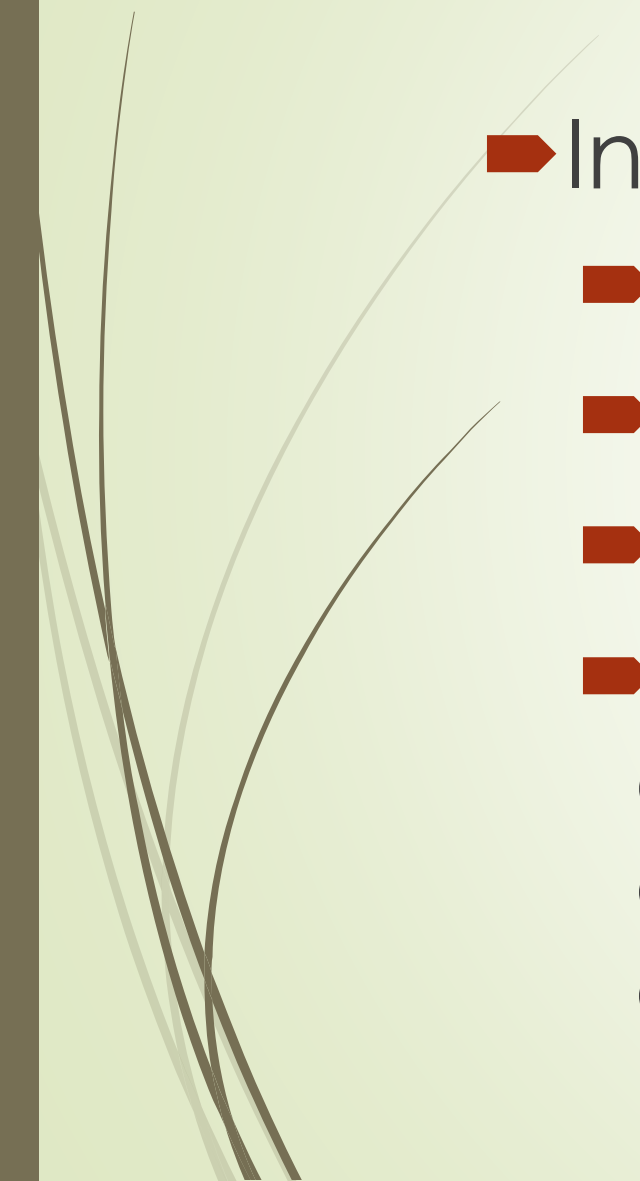
- In the congregation:
 - Teaching classes
 - Leading singing
 - Visiting the Sick
 - Helping with benevolence
- Matthew 25 – **“The Test”**
 - Christ said “I was _____”
 - **“To the least of one of these...unto me”**

Practical Ways to Use Talents

- ➡ In Our Daily Life:
 - ➡ Christlike behavior at work (**1 Cor. 11:1**)
 - ➡ Helping neighbors (**Matt. 22:39**- “love thy neighbor as thyself”)
 - ➡ Speaking words that build up (**Acts 10:38** – Christ- “went about doing good,... God was with Him”)
 - ➡ **Matt. 28:18-20**- “Go....I am with you”



Practical Ways to Use Talents

- In Evangelism: (One Job!!!)
 - **2 Cor. 4:1-9***- Sharing our Faith.
 - Ver.3- “hid to those that are lost”
 - Ver.5- “preach not ourselves”
 - **Ver.7- “We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us”**
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A Call To Action

Ask yourself:

- What abilities has God given me
- How can I use them in the Church
- What fears are holding me back (**2 Tim. 1:7-" God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind"**)
- How can I glorify God more intentionally
- **God doesn't ask you to do everything- only be faithful with your talents.**
- **1 Cor. 10:31- "Whatever you do...do all to the glory of God"**