



Pastor Scott Archer 01.24.2016*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Using Your Talents for God and for Good

Matthew 25:14-30

Series: Living a Worship Full Life

Central Passage

Matthew 25:14–15 (ESV) — **14** “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Central Thought: It is a supreme act of worship to discover, develop and deploy our God given abilities for his glory and the good of our neighbors.

The Parable of the Talents

- ❖ Talent = at least sixty days’ wages.
 - God has entrusted us with what is of great value to him.
 - A “talent” is representative of all the abilities and gifts God as given to us.
- ❖ Our “talents” belong to God, and are distributed to us as an act of grace and with a charge of stewardship and investment for his kingdom purposes.

Matthew 25:14 (ESV) — **14** “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants **and entrusted to them his property.**

- ❖ We don’t all have the same abilities but we have the same responsibility to discover, develop and deploy our talents.

Matthew 25:15 (ESV) — **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to **each according to his ability.** Then he went away.

Romans 12:4–8 (NLT) — **4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **5** so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. **6** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. (See also, 1 Cor. 12)

- ❖ Our misconceptions of God are no excuse for a self-centered, self-preserving life.

Matthew 25:24–25 (ESV) — **24** He 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, **25 so I was afraid**, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

- ❖ We will all give an account of what we did with what we were given – and the consequences are eternal.

Matthew 25:21 (ESV) — **21** His 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.**’

Matthew 25:29–30 (ESV) — **29** 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. **30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’