



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey • Kathleen E. Murphey

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Talents - - Chapter 1

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"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money."

Friends, have you ever seen an individual who was greatly gifted along some specific lines. Perhaps it was a hard working man or woman. They understood the laws of nature and their mind was keen to comprehend and analyze many things. And then have you ever made the remark, "Why, that person ought to be a lawyer, or a doctor, or even a scientist!" Well, I say that to bring out this thought. Each person is endowed with specific abilities and gifts. Some can do one thing well and yet another some different thing. But all of these gifts come from God. Think what it would mean if every person used their ability for the promotion of God's cause in the world.

When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives he spoke to his disciples of his second coming to the world. He specified certain signs that were to show when his coming was near and he told his disciples to watch and be ready. He gave the warning "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." What

does it mean to watch? Here is what it means. You should be busy in doing the job the Lord has assigned to you and not just idly waiting for his coming. Jesus once said, I must work the works of him that send me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. So this lesson of working Jesus taught in the parable of the talents. Did you notice this 13th verse that said, "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." So when Christ went away he left his work to others which are in charge until he returns. It is in the hands of the church, the ministers, yes, and even each member of his body to do something for him. Listen to this poem:

DO SOMETHING TODAY

You're longing to work for the
Master,
Yet waiting for something to do;
You fancy the future is holding
Some wonderful mission for you;

But while you are waiting the
moments
Are rapidly passing away.
O brother, awake from your
dreaming!
Do something for Jesus today.

Go rescue that wandering brother
Who sinks 'neath his burden of woe;
A single kind action may save him,
If love and compassion you show.
Don't shrink from the vilest about you,
If you can but lead them from sin;
For this is the grandest of missions--
Lost souls for the Master to win.

Go sing happy songs of rejoicing
With those who no sorrows have
known;
Go weep with the heart-broken
mourner;
Go comfort the sad and the lone;
From pitfalls and snares of the
tempter
Go rescue the thoughtless and wild;
Go win from pale lips a "God bless
you";
Go brighten the life of a child.

Oh, never, my brother, stand waiting;
Be willing to do what you can;
The humblest service is needed,
To fill out the Father's great plan;
Be earning your stars of rejoicing
While earth-life is passing away;
Win some one to meet you in glory--
Do something for Jesus today.

Now this man who was travelling into
a far country called his servants and
gave each one of them something to do,
to the one he gave 5 talents, to another
2, and to another 1, to every man ac-
cording to his several ability, and
straightway took his journey. Remem-
ber that we, as the servants of Christ,
are not our own. We are bought with
a price, not with such things as silver

and gold but with the precious blood of
the lamb. And they which live should
not henceforth live unto themselves
but unto him which died for them and
rose again. All men have been bought
with this infinite price by pouring the
whole treasury of heaven into this world,
by giving us in Christ all heaven, God
has purchased the will, the affections,
the mind, the soul, of every human
being. Whether believers or unbe-
lievers all men have been purchased.
The trouble is some folks do not ac-
knowledge it, nor yield themselves to
the Lord, but all are called to do ser-
vice for him. For the manner in which
they have met this claim all will be re-
quired to render an account at the
great judgment day. Oh, brother and
sister, let us be busy for him. It is
those who profess to have accepted
Christ's service who in the parable are
represented as his own servants.
Christ's followers have been redeemed
for service. Our Lord teaches that
the true object of life is ministry. He
himself was a worker and to all his
followers he gives the law of service--
service to God and their fellow men.
Here Christ has presented to the world
a higher conception of life than merely
living for self gratification only. The
law of service becomes a connecting
link which binds us to God and to our
fellow men. So to his servants Christ
committed "his goods", something to
be put to use for him. He gives to every
man his work. Each has his place in
the eternal plan of God, each is to work
in co-operation with Christ for the
salvation of souls.

Now don't you see that everyone does
not receive the same gift, but to every
servant of the Master some gift of the
spirit is promised and, of course, we
should first of all have the gift of the
Holy Spirit. This is for each child of

God to have. Jesus said, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you." So they were waiting and praying and fully surrendered to the Lord when the outpouring of the spirit was received. Now even though you might already have certain gifts in Christ I believe that their actual possession and the ability to use them properly depends upon your reception of the spirit of God. The promise of the spirit is often not appreciated as it should be. Its fulfillment is not realized as it might be. Now, dear ones, it is the absence of the Holy Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquency, every natural or acquired endowment may be possessed, but without the presence of the spirit of God it will be difficult to touch the hearts of sinners and win them to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of his disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them the channel for the outworking of the highest influence in the universe.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

We are forever indebted to thee for the many gifts which you have so freely given to the children of men. Help us to improve the time and use our ability to the glory of God and we pray for a special blessing on each listener and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, I won't have time to say all I would like to about talents on this broadcast. But do listen again next week as we continue with the same topic. If you would like a printed copy of the message send us your name and ad-

dress. There is no charge or obligation on your part. If God should move on your hearts to help us spread the gospel by means of radio and the printed page we would be happy to hear from you. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

And now this song, "Watch and pray" by the Carvers of Shreveport, La.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be with each and every one of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

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Testimonies

From N. M. : "Trust every one of you are well and receiving many blessings in his services helping those in need of the true gospel. It certainly means so very much to us. . . will pray for you so remember us." --Ruth Doolittle

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From Pa. : "Greetings to you and yours in the name of our dear Savior and Lord! Oh! how sweet is the peace which only Jesus can give. He is our daily helper in every time of need. Mother is still holding her own. Still trying to walk some, very feeble. My sister from Florida came for the summer and that gave her pep. Please continue to pray for my daughter, in fact, all my family are unsaved. I want to tell you how much Mother and I enjoy the Mission Trail. I don't get any for two or three weeks, then two come at once. That sermon on 'Think on these things' made me stop and think seriously. One of my favorite verses is 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee', but sometimes the things of each day push so hard we tend to let down, so must cling to His hand a little closer. . . ." --Eva Cox

From Ga.: "Greetings to you in the name of our loving Lord who gave His only Son to redeem us from our sins through His shed blood. I am so grateful to God for making it possible for all to be saved. . . Please pray along with my daughter and me to the Lord for the healing of our little grandchild's rupture. We are trusting the Lord. . ."

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

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From Calif.: "Along in November I began to loose flesh terribly. I went from about 130 to 103 then I gained to 105 and to 120 some pounds. . . Bro. and Sis. Stover came down and we found out that my flesh had swollen with water in the tissues of the flesh. So they wanted to hurry and take me with them up here to Pacoima, so like a whirlwind we moved hastily, without any preparation and moved to the parsonage, where they were staying. We gained weight so rapidly. I didn't weigh for I had no scales. They said I surely must weigh 200 lbs. but mostly all water. I stayed in the parsonage. Bro. and Sis. Stover went home and Sis. Keiser and Sis. Madelon Reynolds came and I wore them all out. They moved me over into the Home after Sis. Madelon Reynolds had to return home. I am still trusting him, loving him with all my heart, with all my knowledge. He's flooded my soul with grace and peace. He told Paul his grace was sufficient and he has plenty for us all. So I am looking to Him. . . Much of the water has left my body. From the waist down the water lingers and my limbs are so heavy I can't walk as yet. I've had much prayer. Prayers are stacked up at the throne of grace. I don't know how long I have to wait but God is not a purposeless God and He can work it out. I don't want to get in his way, but stand still and see His salvation. . ."

--Sis. Georgia Zinn

From Okla.: "I am feeling pretty good this even and still encouraged to live for the dear Lord. . . Pray for me for both soul and body. I am praying for you all."

--Mary May

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From Ark.: "My baby son's graduation was Sunday evening. He will be leaving for a job or the army. I wish you all would pray for him and my unsaved loved ones. . . I would like to be close to the Lord. He has been so good to us, brought one son back from Vietnam and one from Germany and healed me many times. I know He is the same."

--Sis. Lugunia Jones

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From Calif.: "We thank the Lord we are still saved and pressing on. We do so love the Lord and how he has been blessing us. The desire of our hearts is to live for God until the very end. There was a time I used to think I'd live for God a while until I wanted to quit. But praise the Lord, he has changed that. My only desire is to be faithful and true until the end. God is so good to us. It brings the tears when I stop and think of all the blessings he has given us."

--Sis. Candice Rich

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From Ore.: "I have such sad news to write you. My only boy just passed away May the 29. It was a hard blow on me. But the Lord is helping me to stand it. My dear children all came that could of 5 of them and a nephew and Charles' wife's brother. They all were such a comfort to me. But the dear Lord above all is giving me grace and strength to go on. I am kept here for some purpose. So pray that God will make use of me in some of the little things. I quote the little poem sometimes: Little drops of water, Little grains of sand make the mighty ocean and the pleasant sand."

--Sis. O. K. Myers

THE LILIES OF THE FIELD



"He desires us
to read it in
every lily."

In his sermon on the mount Jesus gave the lesson, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Then followed the sweet assurance and the important lesson, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Jesus spoke to the multitude, among whom were perhaps men and women full of worries and perplexities.

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From Kansas: "I'm sure you're at the campmeeting tonight. I surely hope and pray that you have a good meeting. Wish I could come for just one day but I can't. School was out yesterday and I was glad for a vacation. It is so much harder than it use to be to teach school . . . When my trials seem hard to bear, I often think how careless we would become if God didn't see fit to permit us to have trials. I often think of the article I read on trials, and it said we should think of them as wagon loads of gold at our door. It was good to receive the Mission Trail today. I have read it and enjoyed it very much. Thank God for the message and the testimonies. There are times that I feel the devil attack my body with weakness, and it causes me to flee to God, because my whole trust is in God, and I know all power is His. . . Remember us in prayer. May God bless each of you in His great work."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt



BROTHER AND SISTER SAM BARTON

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13.

After suffering through many days and the long hours of night our beloved Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla. departed this life about 9:30 p. m. on June 6, 1970. If he had lived one more day he would have been 82 years old. Bro. Sam had been a preacher of the gospel in this evening light truth for many years. He was a staunch defender of the truth and God used him mightily in praying the prayer of faith especially for those who were tormented by the devil. Who of us who remembered him so well will ever forget how he told as a young man he departed from the Lord and God for 13 long years withdrew his spirit from him and he felt that he could not be saved although he longed to find peace within his soul. Then one day God spoke to him and said, "Now you can get saved." He immediately gave his heart to God and found the peace which passeth all understanding. He was a hard worker and not only was his advise sought for many of the spiritual problems of the church but he labored with his hands as well. His example and godly life will be long remembered.

