



# The Mission Trail

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## Talents - - Chapter 2

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Good morning. I want to continue with the subject we used last week on the broadcast concerning talents. Listen to this scripture, "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." Matt. 25: 16-18. It doesn't matter how small or how few your talents may be but the question that should most concern us is not, "How much have I received?", but "What am I going to do with that which I have?"

Our first duty and obligation is to God and then to our fellowmen. It is good to give your heart to Christ but this should certainly not be the ultimate goal nor the end of your development and work for him. In fact it is just a beginning. The Lord has a great work to be done and there is a wonderful reward to those who are faithful and render willing service in this present life. The Lord chooses His own agents and each day under different circumstances he has a plan for the operation of their life. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and every one who has received Christ as his personal saviour is privileged to receive these attributes. We should train our body, our minds, and soul for the divine obligation which Christ has placed upon each one of us. He desires us to study how we can best advance his work and glorify his name in this world and crown with honor, with the greatest love and

devotion, the father "who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Dear ones, do you think that you can go to heaven on flowery beds of ease, without rendering any service for the Lord? Now, it is true that God gives the talents and the powers of the mind but it is up to us as individuals to see that we study to show ourselves approved unto God, a character of this nature is formed by hard, stern battles with life. Conflict after conflict must be waged against any weaknesses or tendencies which would lead us away from the Lord. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely and allow not one unfavorable trait to keep us from performing our duty for God.

Now let no one say, "I just can't overcome my faults." If you come to this decision you will certainly fail to please God. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not then surely you can not overcome. The real dif-

difficulty arises from the corruption of an un sanctified heart and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God. Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little because they attempt little. Thousands of people pass through life as if they had no definite object for which to live, no standard to reach. Now don't forget this. They will obtain a reward in proportion to their work. Remember you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high and step by step even though it be by painful effort, by self denial, by sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you. Now I don't mean for you to endeavor to do this in your own strength, but I mean to do it by the grace of God. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them when they lie between you and the will of God. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction and God will be your helper. And often when one does this he finds that those things which were hindrances in his way actually become stepping stones to fulfill God's will.

It is written of Enoch that he walked with God and he was not because God took him. Remember that this came to pass even in a degenerate age after the fall of man. In that day many were living in sin. Are there no Enochs in this our day who will walk with God? God needs saints who will dare like Daniel to stand firm to their convictions, whom no temptation can corrupt. Do not disappoint him who so loved you that he gave his own life to cancel your sins and endow each of us with talents to work for his glory. He says, "Without me ye can do nothing". Remember

this. If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes, and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you can turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy, and honoring your redeemer. Dear ones, what are you doing with your talents? The character of a saint of God formed in this divine image is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Now let us list some of the talents which most every one of us have in common. They may vary just a little and you may be handicapped along some particular line but let us begin with:

**THE MIND:** Since the mind of man is the gateway to his heart and soul it is very important for the mind to not only be guarded but it should be developed in the right direction. Furthermore since so many problems and difficulties of life begin right in the mind of a person I am persuaded that this is where our victories can begin also. Now listen to this scripture, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." Matt. 22: 37-38

And again this statement of our Lord, "And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Luke 16:8 Now surely the Lord knew what he was talking about, but is it his will for God's own chosen people to be careless and indifferent and less informed than the people of this world? He says that we should love him with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of developing our capacity and our mind that we may know and love our Creator better. If

placed under the control of his spirit, the more thoroughly the mind is cultivated the more effectively it can be used in the service of God. It is amazing what God can do with one who has a willingness to learn and to study to show himself approved unto God.

There are before us possibilities which our feeble faith does not discern. Our mind should be so trained that if necessary we can present the truths of his word before the highest earthly authorities in such a way as to glorify His name. Dear ones, if you live true to God you may have the opportunity to present him before some of those folks. May we not let these opportunities slip by, where we could use our ability to glorify God. Many of the world problems of today arise to the surface for us to view because somewhere along the line, there have been those who failed to train the minds of our youth in the proper direction. It is the youth of today who will become the men and women of tomorrow. True wisdom means more than the colleges can give.

Oh, for young people, and older ones as well, who will take their Bible and place themselves in communion with the great teacher. Their mind should be trained and disciplined to wrestle with the hard problems of life in search for God's divine will for them. But self discipline and self denial must be practiced by everyone who would be a successful worker for God. This will accomplish more than eloquency or the most brilliant talents of others who ignore God's will for them.

Dear ones, may I ask you this question. Are you using your God-given talents for him? What will be your answer when God calls upon you for a report to find out whether or not you have used

your talents properly?

Let us pray,

O Lord,

We are thankful for the talents you have given to each of your children. To some you have given one and yet to others more than this. Now help us to use our talents to the glory of God. Remember each listener of the broadcast with a special blessing this day and thine shall be the praise through Jesus our Lord. Amen

Friends, do listen again next week as we bring you more on the use of your talents. If we may be a help to you be sure to let us know. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. If God should move on your hearts to help us carry on this work for him we would be happy to hear from you. And now this song, "Glorious Peace". The singers are Bob Forbes, Randall Flynn, Melvin Doolittle, and Dale Doolittle.

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

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## *Testimonies*

From Okla.: 'Praise good Lord for Word of God, also pure gospel, also one church that's God's church. . . we that are saved make up one body of church of God. I am glad I can say I am God's servant, also his child in truth and word. . . pray for me and husband. . . pray for my unsaved children. I have a daughter in Calif. I haven't heard from in long time. I can't understand why she don't write us. I have been praying for her. . .'

--Sis. Ben Harrison

From Calif. : "Yes, I am eating some what more than I did. I have some more strength than I did. I believe prayer helped a lot. Thanks to the saints. I haven't been able to read for some time, but I can still get around. I surely thank the good Lord for that, because in 1962 doctors said there was nothing they could do for me. That was before I was saved. One eye doctor said it was an act of God that I could see at all. I pleased the Lord very much when I put my faith and trust in Him, so He has preserved some of my sight yet. I have small records of the New Testament to play on my phonograph, so I beat the devil to the punch anyway. . . With love,"

--Bro. Victor Reel

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From Mo. : "Greetings in the Lord to-night. We are well and encouraged in the Lord, and by his help and grace we mean to press on for him. He means more to me than I can tell. Hope this finds you all well and happy in the Lord. We often think of you all and are praying for you that you keep encouraged in the Lord. . . Your labor's not in vain in the Lord. It is wonderful to work for the Lord. Time is passing away so fast. . . I'm enclosing a poem. I thought it was so good:

### "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"

When upon life's billows you are  
tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking  
all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name  
them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the  
Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load  
of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are  
called to bear?

Count your many blessings, every  
doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days  
go by.

So, amid the conflict, whether great  
or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over  
all;  
Count your many blessings, angels  
will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your  
journey's end.

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
Count your blessings,  
See what God hath done,  
Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings,  
See what God hath done.

I'll say bye. Pray for me. Love and  
prayers. Yours in Him,"

--Myrtle Glass

From Mo. : "Thought I would write a  
few lines today. I am still saved and  
living for the Lord Jesus every day. I  
have received many blessings from him.  
I still enjoy the Mission Trail. "

--Mrs. Mary McPherson

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From Ark. : "Maybe I have been neg-  
lectful about sending an offering for the  
paper, but I do enjoy them all and de-  
sire an interest in the prayers of the  
saints for my soul, mind, body. It is  
important for us to know the will of  
God. "

--Mrs. J. C. Morris

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From Ind. : "I am thankful that God  
saved me when he did, and has kept  
me saved. I have lost all desire for  
the pleasure of this world. I need more  
of the wisdom of God and I desire to  
know his will in my life. "

--Bro. Earl Bliss

From Mo.: "I lived in Oregon 6 years, had a bunch of dairy cows. I would milk them in the morning, give them their feed. They would eat it, go to water, get a drink and find a place and lie down and lift their head to a 45 degree and give thanks for the food they had eaten. Bless the Lord for ever and ever. He's my helper. . . Thanks for the Mission Trail and the broadcast on Coffeyville station and the singing." --W. D. Harmon

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#### A TRIBUTE TO MY FRIENDS

I've always had a feeling  
That God sent you my way.  
He knew that I would need your help  
To walk along life's way.

You're steady, true, and loyal,  
An anchor in life's sea,  
And when my ship goes to tossing  
You always stand by me.

Just your presence helps me  
To know that you are around  
I'm honored with your friendship  
Few friends like you I've found.

You're always there to help me,  
When the road of life gets rough.  
I've found out through the years  
You're a friend that I can trust.

Each time that I have needed you,  
You have given your advice,  
What you said, or wrote  
Made me stop, listen, and think twice.

You have wisdom, your decisions  
Seem always right and just.  
It makes us all happy,  
To have friends who care for us.

--Vesta Kimble

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This is what a friend is, or should be.

--Ray Key

From Calif.: "I feel like the Lord wants me to write and tell how I am. The good Lord has helped me so much. I am much better and I do thank Him for it and all who prayed for me. I still need prayer for my eyes and nerves and other things. I know God will finish what He started. He never leaves anything half done, so I am trusting Him for complete healing. I give Him all the praise. I am glad I didn't let the devil cause me to give up. Dear ones, hold on to God. We may have to wait a while. I have, . . . so keep trusting our God. I love Him so much and want to let Him rule my life. Pray for my unsaved loved ones."

--Sis. Ada Leach

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From La.: "I hope all you folks are well and prospering in the Lord. I am thankful for His numberless blessings. I have wanted to write for weeks, but being at Mother's and Dad Pinkerton's for several weeks and still help out some, I have been extra busy at home and not well myself. I know you as everyone that were around thought it was surely God's time to take Dad Pinkerton. He raised him almost from the dead. Humanly he wants to go on but he always says he's willing to stay and suffer for whatever purpose God has. He stays happy in his soul thru all the pain. He is in great distress with palsy and especially whole left side. He coughs and chokes severely and is helpless to a great extent. He can slowly walk around and get to the table. Mother has to dress and help him in many ways. She needs prayer very much. She has several ailments. He prays for enduring grace to go thru with victory. God helped so when he was bedfast by sending the brethren to help nurse him. So everyone's prayers have and will be appreciated."

--Gladys Harper

