



The Mission Trail

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Talents - - Chapter 3

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Good morning, friends. I am sure glad to be coming your way once again with more on the message concerning "talents". But let us first go back and get the scripture which we have been using concerning talents. Here it is, "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 Now I have spoken about being busy for the Lord and then on the last broadcast I began to enumerate some of the talents which God gives. I spoke about the mind and how it could be trained. Now let us consider:

SPEECH: The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God this is a very special one and is capable of proving a great blessing when used in the right way. With the voice we convince and persuade; with it we offer prayer and praise to God; and with it we tell others of the redeemer's love, at least we should. We hope you are doing the same. How important then that it be so trained as to be most effective for good. Really, the development and right use of the voice is often neglected even by the saints. There are many who read or speak in so low or so rapid a manner that they can not be readily understood. Some have a thick, indistinct utterance, others speak in a high key, in sharp shrill tones that are painful to the hearing. Of course, I realize that each voice has its own quality but it should be developed in such a way that it will provide a clear understanding to those who hear. If one is not easily understood it will be difficult for them to

get their point across to the hearers.

Now on this point the Bible gives instructions. Of the Levites who read the Scriptures to the people in the days of Ezra it is written, "They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Neh. 8:8 Then again the Apostle Paul in I Cor. 14 and verses 8 and 9 puts it this way, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?"

So in order for our words to be profitable they must be understood. In speaking in this manner one can be greatly used of the Lord. Every saint is called to make known to others the unsearchable riches of Christ. He should present the word of God in a way that will commend it to the hearers. We should look to Jesus, the perfect pattern; we

should seek for the assistance of the holy spirit and in his strength we should seek to train our lips and tongue to speak to the glory of God. Especially is this true of those who are called to public service. Every minister and every teacher should bear in mind that he is giving to the people a message that involves eternal interest. The truth spoken will judge them in the great day of final reckoning. With some souls, the manner of the one delivering the message will determine its reception or rejection. Then let the word be so spoken that it will have a positive meaning to the understanding and impress the hearts of those who hear.

Isa. 50:4 goes this way, "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Surely this is what we need the Lord to do for us. And then in Col. 4:6 we find this instruction, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." And then again in Eph. 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." So let me tell you that words are important and the manner in which they are spoken is also important. Words can either be a savour of life unto life or of death unto death. We can either draw souls unto Christ, or we drive them away from the truth. Even words of reproof should be spoken in love. So don't forget the talent that you have of speech.

Every family and every individual child of God has the solemn obligation to

guard against corrupt speech. It is the work of parents to train their children against the use of slang words, and improper speech. And oh, how prevalent these things are in the world today. And of course this should begin right in the home, that is the training of these children. From the earliest years the children should be taught to speak respectfully and lovingly to their parents and to one another. Let the parents themselves be daily learners in the school of wisdom. Then by precept and example they can teach their children the use of "sound speech, that can not be condemned". I believe that we should look for opportunities to speak up for the Lord, not abruptly, but with divine wisdom and love. It is in this way that we make good use of our talent of speech.

Now, there is another talent which all of us have and that is:

INFLUENCE: This is one you might not think so much about. But remember the life of Christ was an ever-widening shore of influence that bound him to God and to the whole human family. Then through Christ God has invested man with an influence that makes it almost impossible for him to live to himself. It would indeed be difficult for a man to be independent of his fellowmen. It is God's purpose that each should feel himself necessary to others' welfare and seek to promote their happiness. Don't forget this, each person is surrounded by an atmosphere of his own, an atmosphere which may be charged with the life giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love. Or it may be heavy and chill with the gloom of discontent and selfishness or poisonous with the deadly taints of cherished sin. But by this atmosphere surrounding us

those people who come in contact with us are affected, I would say either for better or for worse. Now, dear ones, do you want people attracted to the Lord by your influence, or are you going to be soured on the world and on the gospel and on the truth and just show a unconcern for the things of God and in this way drive people away from Him? So there is a responsibility from which we cannot free ourselves. Our words, our acts, our dress, our daily walk, and even the expression of our countenance has an influence. From this impression which others get, their life is also affected. Every impulse thus imparted is seed sown which will produce its harvest. It is a link in the long chain of human events extending we know not whither. It is by our example we aid others in the development of good principles. We give them power to do so. In their turn they exert the same influence upon others and they upon still others. Thus by our unconscious influence thousands may be blessed. Dear ones, what sort of an influence are you wielding for God? Throw a pebble into the lake, and a wave is formed, and another, and another. And as they increase the circle widens until it reaches the distant shore. So it is with our influence. It goes beyond our knowledge or control. It tells upon others either in blessing or in cursing.

But never should it be forgotten that influence is no less a power for evil. To lose one's own soul is a terrible thing, but to cause the loss of other souls is even more tragic. Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from him by their influence. No doubt foolish, selfish indulgence, and careless indifference on the part of some who profess to be saints, are turning away many souls from the truth.

Many there are who will be condemned before the judgment bar of God when they meet the results of their own influence. Dear ones, may we so live that our talent of influence will be a silent, unconscious but mighty power in drawing others to the truth and not drive them away.

Now, let me ask you this solemn question, what are you doing with your talent of speech and influence?

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Give us divine wisdom and understanding to speak as the oracles of God. Cause the words spoken on the broadcast to find their way into good and honest hearts. Bless each listener this day in the way which they need most and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now, I am not through with this subject of talents yet, so do tune in again next week as more talents are considered. If we may be of help to you or if you would like this series of messages in print send for the weekly copies of The Mission Trail. Just address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. There is no obligation. And now this song, "I love to serve my Jesus". The singers are Manuel and Marie Mitchell and Frances (Porter) Deforth.

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

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". . . every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:11, 12

Nat'l Missionary Report

"Coffeyville, Kans. June 12, 1970

Dear Saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus dear name. We are grateful to have the peace of God reigning in our hearts today. When we see the awful condition people get into after they have rejected God, it makes us thankful for the grace of God, and the love for the truth that we have; so thankful for light and understanding. It is not within man to direct his way. He surely needs divine guidance. It makes us to want to draw closer to the Lord so we can hear his voice better. Surely what the world needs is to listen to the word of God, and give heed. We are thankful for the radio broadcast and appreciate the word as it goes forth. May the Lord give grace and courage to declare the truth. It is the truth that will make men free. Too many are turning from the truth. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. We feel it would be good to let the saints know that Brother Curtis Williams and other ministers are laboring in tent meetings. At the present time they are at Clearfield, Ky. as long as the Lord leads. In talking with Bro Curtis by phone, his plans are, Lord willing, to move the tent to West Union, Ohio after this meeting and to other places as the Lord leads. Let us encourage every one to get under a real missionary burden for these meetings and others thru out the summer. Many souls today are dying and going to eternal torment for lack of burden and someone bearing the gospel message of deliverance from sin. We want to be faithful in not only supplying with our means, but also in real prayer of travailing that babies be born into the Kingdom of God. It will bring joy to your heart if you have had a part. When

we were little children at home and a new arrival came into our home it was a real thrilling joy that flooded our hearts, and we had a new found love for that little bundle that heaven had sent. So we're expecting to have joy at the arrival of new born-again souls into the Kingdom of God. Will you help us pray and pray earnestly? If you desire to help support this effort you may send your offering to the Church of God National Missionary Fund in care of the undersigned. If you desire to specify to whom you wish it to be sent feel free to do so. Yours for reaching souls,"

--Ralph and Inez Beisly, 407 Eldridge
Coffeyville, Kan. 67337

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Correspondence

From La.: "I believe that those things that concern us, are of concern to the Lord, when we bring them to Him. We do appreciate the way He has helped us from time to time. Pray for us that we stay true to the Lord, and that we teach the children the way they should be taught. It means much to 'train up a child in the way it should go' but that's what we desire to do."

--Byron, Clarice Pruitt and girls

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From Mo.: "We trust this finds you all well and happy in the Lord. We pray the Lord to bless you all and supply your every need in the good work you are doing for Him. We sure enjoy the broadcast. It comes in good on our radio. We enjoy the Mission Trail too. We thank the Lord for His many blessings to us. The Lord said Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth them out of them all. We have had to fight afflictions this winter and spring one after another. But the dear Lord gives us victory."

--Katie and Asa Gibson

From La. : "Greetings of much Christian love to your family this morning in the name of Jesus, who, with His wonderful love in our heart binds us together into one big family. How I appreciate my brothers and sisters in Christ. Made so clean by His precious blood. You have probably heard of the wonderful rejoicing the Lord brought to my heart 2 weeks ago this evening by sweetly saving my dear Ruth and her husband, Charles. . . We enjoy the broadcast and the printed page, praying the Lord's rich blessings on your dear family as you work for Him. Use the little offering in your work. I must get this in the mail box if it leaves today. In Christian love,"

--Sis. Alta Flynn

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From Ore. : "I greet you in Jesus dear name, that name that means so much to us all. He is all in all to me. I love him more all the time. He is so good to me and mine. We had a little rain off and on the last week and is real cool too; less than 2 weeks till our camp-meeting. Do hope it isn't too hot for the meeting. We can stand cool better than heat. . . I hope you folks can come to our meeting. We have heard there are some coming. We only had one out of state minister for our assembly meeting. Well we got word our dear old Bro. Barton went on to his reward. That is blessed to know another one made it safely home. Psalms 116:15, 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints'. I couldn't understand that till my husband passed and I could understand then. He had been sick so long and was so poor and he looked so peaceful and sweet and so at rest. Death is so sweet when one is ready. I just pray all of my dear ones will be ready. May the Lord bless you all. . . Pray for our meeting and us too. Christian love,' --Sis. Emma Busch

From Ill. : "I am thankful today for the privilege of being a real Christian. The world has lots of professing Christians, lots who hope they are saved, but I thank God this morning for a 'know-so' experience of salvation. I know I was truly saved, for the Lord broke the shackles of sin and set me free! I know I have passed from death unto life because I love the brethren! I know God saved me because I was made a new creature in Christ Jesus. Where I once loved the world and sin, Jesus turned me around and made me to love the things of God, the Bible, his people, spiritual songs and poems and writings, and the spoken word (preaching, when it is done under the anointing and unction of the Holy Spirit) Yes, and it made me to love my enemies also. There is no hatred in a heart that is filled with the love of God, and no ill-will. I thank God for such an experience! I thank Him too for the peace that passes understanding, the joy that is unspeakable. Anything unspeakable we are not able to put into words, but I can say I have this joy, also, and these who have it understand what we are talking about. When I was in sin, I had no peace. The peace the world gives is not really peace for it is a false sense of well-being brought about when one accomplishes some goal they might have, or gains something one might desire, but it does not last! The peace of God is an unruffled calm, a steadfast hope, a calm assurance that though the whole world be against us, it is well with our soul! In the midst of turmoil and strife a round us, this peace abides in our soul and keeps us sweet and confident in God's watch-care over us. Oh, it is indeed past understanding, but I thank God because I have this peace and have found it worth more than all the treasures of this world." --Sister Thelma Sprague

