



# The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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## Talents - - Chapter 5

Radio Broadcast for week of July 5, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

"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." Matt. 25:14-18

Good morning, friends. For the past several weeks I have used this scripture in discussing responsibility of our talents. We have spoken about a number of things including the mind, time, influence, speech, and health. Do you remember what I told you we were going to discuss this time? I hope you will not get in too big of a hurry to turn the radio off but just listen for a few moments. We are going to talk about your

**MONEY:** Now don't think that you can do what you please with your money if you belong to the Lord because that belongs to him too. It is God who entrusts men with means. He gives them the power to get wealth. He waters the earth with the dews of heaven and with showers of refreshing rain. He gives the sunlight which warms the earth, awakening to life the things of nature and causing them to flourish and bear fruit. He asks for a return of his own. Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the glory and honor

of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is the Lord's. When they have set apart a portion for religious and charitable purposes they regard the remainder as their very own to be used as they see fit. But in this they mistake. All we possess is the Lord's. We are accountable to him for the use we make of it. By the way we spend our money we prove whether or not we love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. Money is important. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed and a means of help for the sick.

But on the other hand great wealth saved up over a lifetime can even be a curse to those who own it if it is not put to good use. Now listen to what the Apostle Paul said about money in writing to Timothy. In I Tim. the 6th chapter and beginning with the 6th verse. "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and rai-

ment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Wealth in this life is sometimes a snare to the soul, drawing the affections away from heavenly treasures. In the great day of God the unused talents and neglected opportunities will be a witness against those who might have accomplished much for God, but failed to do so. In James beginning with 5 and 1, listen to these solemn words, "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." Do you remember how careful Jesus was about the food when the multitude was fed? He said, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." It is good to realize that money is a talent from God and we should use it economically and wisely. Let us not rob God of the honor and glory which should flow back to him through the improvement of his entrusted talents. Now remember, I am not telling you how much to give nor where to give. This is a matter to be settled between you and God. But God wants you to honor him with your substance.

And now let us look at the man with

**THE ONE TALENT:** This man "went and digged in the earth and hid his lord's money". It was the one with the

smallest gift who did nothing for his lord. In this is given a warning to all who feel that the smallness of their talent excuses them from doing anything for Christ. If they could do some great thing how gladly would they undertake it but because they can serve only in little things they seem to justify themselves in doing nothing. This is not right. The Lord in his distribution of gifts gave to each one at least one talent. The man who neglected to improve his talent proved himself an unfaithful servant. If he had received 5 talents do you think he would have buried them as he did the one? The importance of the little things is often underrated because they are small. By unfaithfulness in even the smallest duties man robs his maker of the service which is due him. In turn this unfaithfulness reacts upon himself. He fails to gain the grace and power to be an overcomer. If one is not guided by right principles in little things how can God entrust him with the great matters? Only by faithfulness in the little things can the heart and soul be trained to handle the larger responsibilities of life. It was God who brought Daniel and the Hebrew children into connection with the great men of Babylon that these heathen men might become acquainted with the principles of the true religion. In the midst of a nation of idolatry Daniel was to represent the character of God. But how did he become fitted for a position of so great trust and honor? It was his faithfulness in the little things which God used to promote him to the great things. Listen to this verse from Dan. 1:17, "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." And then the 20th verse, "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king

required of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. "Would you not like to have this true wisdom which comes from God only? Then be faithful to him in the little things. Even as God called Daniel to witness for him in Babylon so he calls us to be his witnesses in the world today. In the smallest as well as the largest affairs of life he desires us to reveal to men the truth of his church and kingdom.

Do you know what excuse many folks use when they fail to do their duty? How many times have you heard them say, "Oh, I just forgot."? Now it may not be so bad to forget some things, but if you forget to yield yourself to the Lord and make good use of the talent he has given you, then this is tragic. Some folks seem to think it is a sufficient excuse for the greatest errors to plead forgetfulness. If you form a habit of negligence you may neglect your own soul's salvation and at last find you are unready for heaven. Now don't forget the Lord wants you to be a worker and a witness for him wherever you may be. This is true whether you are in the home, on the job, or going to school. If you are a mother, train your children for God. This is a work for God just the same as a minister who may preach from the pulpit. If you are a father, be an example and a pattern for your family. If you are young, say not "there's nothing I can do", because there is plenty of things that young folks dedicated to Christ can accomplish for him. Put your mind on what you are doing. In all your work represent Christ. Our love for him will give a vital force to things that are undertaken in his name. Thus through the right use of our talents we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the true and per-

fect will of God. Don't wait for something great to be done. You might wait a long time. While you are waiting for some great work life passes away, its purpose unfulfilled, and its work unaccomplished.

Let us pray,

O Lord,

The giver of all good gifts, we ask that you would bless each listener of the broadcast today. Help each one to be faithful in the little things of life and prepare us for the greater responsibilities and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, if we may be a help to you or if you would like a printed copy of the broadcast send for one. It is free and without cost or obligation to you. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. Do tune in again next week for one more message on the talents.

Here is a song, "I'm depending on Jesus". The singers are Bob and Dorall Forbes, Randel 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!



"But he that had received one went and digged in the earth and hid his lord's money."

## Correspondence

From Jamaica, West Indies: "Again we take pleasure in sending you greetings in Jesus great name. It is indeed a great privilege to be in God's wonderful peculiar family--the Church of God. We received your letter of 22nd March for which we thank you. The more we get to know of our brethren in other lands the happier we feel. We pray and long for the unity of this family. The devil has succeeded in dividing this family but now in the 'evening time' God is calling us back to His original plan of unity and holiness. It is unfortunate that many members of the family have this knowledge but are apparently not prepared to make the sacrifice for this unity. The sacrifice of allowing God to lead, rule, and work in and through them. This necessitates the complete surrender of man's spirit, way, and thoughts, in exchange for the Divine, whereby man seeks only to please God. The devil in cooperation with the spirit of man is constantly at war with Divine unity. Dear Brother Willie, I am much distressed at the way in which many members of this family treat this very important issue. It is time for members of the Church of God to 'file up' stand together and present to the world the 'faith of our fathers'. I have often wondered why members of the family (church) can not be divinely united when we get to know each other!! Let us work and pray always for this--the unity for which Christ prayed. Glad to know there are some still with the desire and are working for same. Yes, indeed it would be a pleasure to meet you in person. From a human point of view this seems impossible, but if God will He will make it possible. . . Sis. Smalling joins in sending Christian greetings. The following is one of the

many poems the Holy Spirit inspires me to write. Trust it will be a blessing.

Lift high the torch of truth, be brave,  
Let Zion's light glow o'er the land,  
For Zion's sake, hold not thy peace,  
For truth and right now firmly stand.  
'Tis evening time, God's truth let  
shine

In unity, for Truth let's stand.  
Though some from Truth have stayed  
quite far,

With loyalty for God, be filled.  
The work is great, no compromise,  
Sanballat's scorn--we do not fear;  
With vision clear of right and wrong,  
We'll build for God with conscience  
clear.

Yours in His service, "

--Israel Smalling

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From Guthrie: "I thank God this bright afternoon for salvation that saves from sin of every kind, and by being born again we become a member of the loving family, which is the Church of God. . . . This world has lost its charm for me. I've found a greater treasure, one that fadeth not away. The Lord made it possible for us to attend the Holly Hill, S. C. campmeeting and also the Clearfield, Ky. tent meeting which proved out to be a precious campmeeting. . . . It just seemed we were on holy grounds and our souls were richly blest by being at both campmeetings. . . . May we each one not forget those precious truths that went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Let us put them in practice in our every day life, for as the trials and tests of life come we will need them. . . . The dear Lord gave us a safe trip home and it seemed good to be home a few days. Then the Lord had other work for us to do. . . . I need your prayers that I keep in his will and order at all times. . . ."

--Sis. Evelyn Gibson

From Ill. : "Remember us in prayer and our unsaved loved ones. God is still on His Throne. He remembers His own. Christian love,"

--Sis. Viola Perry

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From Mo. : "I do thank the Lord for what He has done for me. I love Him because He first loved me. I think of the song, 'Love found a way to redeem my soul'. On the back of this tablet some one wrote 'Don't let your body master your soul'. Do you know that is the most important thing? Your soul is more important than your body. By the help of the Lord I mean to go right on until He can say, 'Well done, come up higher.'"

--W. J. Marler

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From Calif. : "One month ago today our boy Dale passed away. We thought he was getting well and I had accepted his healing last fall when the saints were asked to pray for him. Tuesday morning, May 19th we were called to his home in Poway, Calif. He had a bad night and Jesus called him home shortly after we had arrived. His wife Sue said he was ready to go. They had been praying together for two days. Dale told his wife, 'This is my last day. I have been praying to my Lord. I won't keep you awake tonight. I have made my peace with God.' 'Praise the Lord for this.' God waited and in His great love and wisdom knew when to take him. I know others have lost loved ones and had this sad and lonely feeling inside. I'm holding God's hand and know He will see us through this our greatest sorrow. God has promised never to leave us or forsake us. Heb. 13:5 With his love and strength I have emerged a more mature person. . . Thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, and kindness. Every one has been precious to us and we will need your prayers in the days to follow."

--Sis. Lucille Allen

From Ark. : "The day would be a total loss to me without the Lord, and I can truly say, I feel the weakest one of God's children."

--Sis. Lou Bray

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From Ala. : "The dear Lord has been so good to us I want to praise his sweet and holy name. Jesus has answered prayer so many times in our behalf. He has healed our bodies so many times. He has answered prayer so many times I could never praise him enough. Do continue to remember us in prayer. One of our boys, who isn't a Christian, is in the hospital, just been operated on. Please remember him in prayer."

--Mrs. Silas Whitson

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From Mo. : "Here is a little article I read I thought was good: 'A young man went to an aged saint on one occasion and asked him to pray for him saying, 'I find myself giving way to impatience continually. Will you please pray for me that I may be more patient?' The old man prayed, 'Lord, send this young man tribulation in the morning, send him tribulation in the afternoon. . . ' The young man nudged him saying, 'No no, not tribulation. Patience.' 'But', remonstrated the old saint, 'it is tribulation that worketh patience. If you would know patience, you must have tribulation. If you would know victory, you must have conflict; it is ridiculous for anybody to talk about having a victory when they have never been in conflict. You must be prepared to enter into the arena with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and he will give you lessons day by day. No one can enjoy victory without paying the price, even in the ordinary realms of life. If you would know what it is to triumph, you must certainly pass through tribulation. If you want patience, then it is tribulation; if you want victory there must be conflict.' Yours in Christ,"

--F. E. and Ellen Wilson

