



The Mission Trail

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"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 6

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Good morning, friends. It is certainly a pleasure to be coming your way another time with a short gospel message. I hope that this day finds you much encouraged to press on for the Lord. It is surely a rewarding life and I am not at all sorry that I made the choice many years ago to serve God and put him first in my life. Many blessings have come my way and I hope that in some small measure I may show my gratitude to God and to the saints for these blessings which we have received. The talent which God has given I want to use for him, that his cause may be advanced and his name glorified.

Let me give you this scripture once again which we've been using on the broadcast for several weeks now. I hope that we will be able to finish this series of messages on the talents. But here is the scripture, "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

Now let us notice this 19th verse of the 25th chapter of Matthew. "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them." Just think of the things that are going to take place when

THE TALENTS ARE RETURNED: When the Lord takes account of his servants, the return from every talent will be observed. The work which has been accomplished will reveal the character of the worker. Those who have received the 5 and the 2 talents will return to the Lord their entrusted gifts along with their increase. But it will not be for them to claim the merits of their accomplishments for their own glory. Sure, their talents will have gained in value but this could not have been done had it not been for the original gift from the Lord. They will have only done and accomplished their duty. The capital was the Lord's; the improvement will be his also. Was it not the saviour who bestowed upon them his love and grace, without which they would have been bankrupt for eternity, so to speak? But I believe the Lord will be filled with joy and satisfaction as he rewards those who have been faithful to him. For every service and every sacrifice he will repay them many times over again. Now just notice what the scripture says, "Well done, thou good

and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:21 Don't you know it will be a thrill for the faithful ones to see others who are saved in heaven because of their service to God?

But listen to these words which are to be pronounced upon the unfaithful servant, "Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." Matt. 25:26, 27 Then notice briefly this 30th verse, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." So often men excuse their neglect of God's gifts. They look upon God as severe and that he requires too much of them. They charge him with demanding what he has never given, with reaping where he has not sown. But did you know that we cannot bring to God anything but that which rightly belongs to him already? This includes our personal service too for Christ has died for our redemption. So all that we have belongs to God either by virtue of his creation or by the redemption through Christ. All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard master reaping where he has not sown is not true. There were ways and means by which this man could have improved his talent if he would have done so. Our heavenly father requires no more nor less than he has given us ability to do. He lays upon his servants no burdens that they are not able to bear. All that which he expects of us we, through di-

vine grace, we can render unto him. But it is true that if he entrusts us with more he is expecting more from us.

It seems best to me that one should not be continually talking about their weakness and inability. Did you ever know folks like this? It is true that our ability is limited, but through Christ I believe that each one can have sufficient grace to accomplish that which God requires of them. It would be so easy for us to say that the slothful servant was just filled with humility and did not want to put himself on exhibition. But true humility is widely different from this. To be clothed with humility does not mean that we are to be slothful and careless and afraid to do anything. One could say that he shunned the burdens lest he should fail to carry them successfully, but real humility fulfills God's purposes by depending upon His strength. It doesn't mean that we don't do anything. It means that we can accomplish that which God designs for us to do so through His grace. God's power is revealed through the weakness of men. We should not suppose that what is great to us must of necessity be great to God or that which is small to us will be small to him. In other words it does not rest with us to pass judgment on our talents or to choose our work. We are to take up the burdens that God appoints us and bear them willingly for his sake. Whatever our work, let us honor God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let us be glad that we are accounted worthy to be co-laborers with him.

In that great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking only of themselves and pleasing only themselves, will be required to give an account of their ta-

lents before the judge of all the earth. Could it be that there are many good moral people who would not think of committing blasphemy, murder, or adultery but who will be cast away from the presence of the Lord in that great day because they have refused to put their talents to work for him? Dear ones, let me urge you regardless of whether your talents may be small or great, use them for the glory of God. Do what you can for the Lord. He does not expect the unreasonable. All he wants is faithfulness. He is counting on you, don't fail him. Now listen to this poem:

WILL YOU FAIL

He is counting on you,
He has need of your life
In the thick of the strife;
For that weak one may fall
If you fail at His call.
He is counting on you,
If you fail Him--
What then?

He is counting on you,
On a love that will share
In His burden of prayer,
For the souls He has bought
With His life-blood and sought
Through His sorrow and pain
To win 'Home' yet again.
He is counting on you,
If you fail Him--
What then?

He is counting on you,
On life, money, and prayer;
And 'the day shall declare'
If you let Him have all
In response to His call;
Or if He in that day
To your sorrow must say,
I had counted on you,
But you failed me--
What then?

He is counting on you,
Oh! the wonder and grace,
To look Christ in the face
And not be ashamed.
For you gave what He claimed,
And you laid down your all
For His sake--at His call.
He had counted on you,
And you failed not.
What then?

Let us pray,

Our Father,

We are grateful for the talents which you have entrusted to us and we ask for divine assistance and grace that we may be faithful to discharge our duty before God and men. Bless each listener of the broadcast today and give them grace sufficient to be faithful to thee in all of that which you expect of them and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

If you are not already on our mailing list and receiving these printed copies of The Mission Trail weekly and you would like to have them, be sure to let us know. There is no cost or obligation on your part. It is by faith that we look to the Lord to move on the hearts of those who can help us keep his word going forth over the air and through the mail. This will complete our series of messages on talents making a total of 6 copies. If you would like to have them all just write me a letter and say "Bro. Willie, send me those 6 messages on the talents". We will know what you mean. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla.

Now I am going to take this means to extend a very special invitation of the listeners of the broadcast to attend the national campmeeting of the Church of God at Monark Springs, near Neosho,

Mo. beginning Friday, July 24th. There will be services daily. Plan now to enjoy 10 days of blessings with the Lord's people.

Here is a song, "It's alright now". The singers are Bob and Dorall Forbes, Troy Gentry, 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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Correspondence

From La.: "Greetings of love to you tonight in the name of Jesus. We are happy to be serving Him and so thankful for His blessings."

--Doyle and Cynthia LaCroix

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From Mo.: "I received the Mission Trail yesterday. Thanks for sending it to me. I have enjoyed it very much. I like the chapter on talents. Pray for me that I will be careful what I say, that the words that I say will be pleasing to the dear Lord. Find enclosed a small offering to help in the broadcast. May God bless you all in his work."

--Mrs. J. P. Noland

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From Miss.: "The healing touch ran through my body before I left Hammond and I have been mending some since I came home, feel some stronger for which I praise God. I was very glad to see Mama's face looking better when got home. Sorry you did not get to stay at Hammond long. . . All of the sermons I heard seemed so good. I praise God for getting to hear them. I was there for all of the services from the 26th night service until Sun. I left to come home about 9:45."

--Dorothy Bridges

From La.: "Greetings to you in the name of our precious Lord and Savior. We thank Him for all He means to us. Thank Him for saving grace and for keeping grace. Faith in God is such a wonderful thing! Praise His precious name!"

--Randall Flynn

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From Kansas: "I hope to get to come at least one day or more at Monark, but right now I'm not sure just what I can do. I do hope and pray that the dear ones that are saved during these meetings will go deep enough to stand the trials of life. For we are certainly going to have them. That old devil is fighting hard for each of our souls. . . With Christian love,"

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

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From Kansas: "I am glad to have this opportunity to write to you again, and tell you I am still serving the Lord. I want you to know I still enjoy your messages and also the testimonies. And I do thank God for that letter sent in by Bro. Audley Williams from Michigan. All I can say is, Keep praying, and keep witnessing for Jesus Christ. Paul says 'remember those who are bound as bound with them'. . . God wants us to see the face of Jesus in every man and woman, boy and girl we meet. To pray for them, love them, and help them when and if we can. Our whole world is full of trouble; and troubled people, and Jesus has no hands but ours, thru which to work. In as much as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me. So, you see, Jesus condescends to call all those who are sick, sad and lonely and in prison 'these my brethren'. My happiest days in the past was in visiting a jail and talking and working with prisoners. Pray for me, even as I also pray for you, and may God encourage your heart. Yours in Jesus"

--Homer W. Fee

From Mo. : "We are all very well and still encouraged in the dear Lord. I'm praying for you all. Jesus is our best friend. He knows our heart."

--Lily Mae Glass

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From Mo. : "I read in Psalms chapter 9:17 where it says the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Practically every nation has done that and there's only one way for them to escape that and that's to turn to the lamb of God. . . Thanks for the Mission Trail. I get a . . . blessing from it and also the broadcast over the Coffeyville station and the singing. . ."

--W. D. Harmon

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From Mich. : "Greetings in Jesus precious name. We are about the same as we were when you were here. We hope and pray you and your family are well and blessed by the dear Lord. We are getting a nice rain today. We have had plenty of rain so far this spring and summer. It was a cold spring and our garden did not grow very good until the last 2 or 3 weeks. We have had a couple meals of yellow beans the last few days. Our tomatoes are starting to bloom and some tomatoes are starting to grow. Our early corn is tasseling and silking so maybe by the first of August we will have roasting ears and tomatoes. We certainly do enjoy the Mission Trail. The messages and testimonies are encouraging to us. We do remember the prayer requests and pray for the good Lord to have His way with each one. We also remember you and yours that God will bless you in your endeavor to spread the glorious gospel. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Oh if they all would do that how nice it would be. . . We pray God to bless you abundantly."

--Floyd and Ether Hines

From S. C. : "It is so great to be here tonight for I have been real sick but thank God He is still watching over me . . . He is my saviour in the time of need and trouble. That's why I serve Him."

--Sis. Sallie Sweat

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From Calif. : "This finds me yet saved and sanctified and much encouraged to press on for God. . . I'm determined by his grace to be true and faithful to Him at all times. Surely it means much to be faithful and to stay faithful. There sure isn't any room for playing at salvation. It's a life and death business and means much to our souls and not only ours but other souls also. The way we live before others is what determines just a lot of times whether that soul decides to make the move that will cause him to go the narrow way or the broad way and we know that Heaven stands at the end of one of those ways and hell at the end of the other. So if we look at it that way and use our God given ability to think before we do some thing we can spare ourselves and others a lot of misery at the last. Then too if we live to the best of what we know and understand then someone else will be encouraged to follow us as we follow Christ. . . our rewards are not always given in this life. There are some rewards reserved in heaven for his faithful children so it pays to be faithful to God not only in material blessings but mainly in a joyful relationship with God because you know you've faithfully obeyed him and are in the center of His will. The spiritual blessings are worth more any time than material blessings--because material blessings are over--only for a short time and they perish with using, however precious they seem. But spiritual blessings are eternal. They start in this life and never fade away."

--Thomasene Taylor

