

ABILITY

HIDDEN TALENT

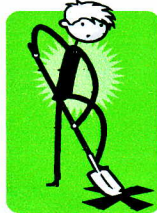
"...TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS SEVERAL ABILITY"

A common statistic we hear in the world of business is that 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Do you think that's true in the corporate church? Do you think it's true in the church of God's elect?

MATTHEW 25

- To what did Jesus compare this parable? (25:14)
 - What did the man deliver unto his own servants?
- How were the talents given out? (25:16)

"...to every man according to his _____."
- What was the percentage of increase earned...
 - by the servant given the most talents? (25:16)
 - by the servant given the median talents? (25:17)



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

- What did the servant do who was given the least amount? (25:18)
- After a long time, what did the lord of the servants return to do? (25:19)
- Compare the lord's response to the 1st and 2nd servants: (25: 21,23)
 - What were the excuses of the servant who hid the lord's money?

Vs. 24 - "Thou art a _____"

Vs. 25 - "I was _____"
- What was said to the servant? (25:26-27)
 - What was the consequence?
- What name did the lord call that servant? (25:30)
 - What was the consequence?

F.Y.I. CORNER

- TALENT** - (Gr. 5007)

to bear or to carry; a balance, i.e. a certain weight, thence a coin or certain amount of money
- SEVERAL** - (Gr. 2398)

pertaining to self; i.e. one's own; private
- ABILITY** - (Gr. 1411)

"Dunamis" - 77 times used as power; lit. force, miraculous power; impl. worker of a mighty work
- SLOTHFUL** - (Gr. 3636)

hesitation; to be slow; delay; tardy i.e. indolent; fig. Irksome; grievous, slothful.

"I WAS AFRAID...THOU HAST THAT IS THINE"

PERSPECTIVE ON ONE TALENT

One shekel = 4 days' pay
One talent = 3000 shekels; 12,000 days' pay;
40 yrs. work @ 300 days a yr.;
a lifetime of daily wages.

- With this information, what is the most likely category a believer would fall under, the servant with 5 talents, 2 talents or 1 talent?

DISCUSSION:

- Why does this parable use the word servant, and not person? Who do the servants represent spiritually? What do the talents represent spiritually? *Hint: II Cor. 4:1-7.*
- In the parable, the lord gave "to every man according to his ability." Review the Greek definition of ability (F.Y.I. Corner). Respond to the amazing accuracy of this definition.
- How does the modern day phrase of "hidden talents" differ from this "hidden talent" in the parable? *Hint: Matt. 5:16*
- Why would a person hide this talent? Which of the following excuses would take precedent over others?
 - Busy lives
 - Emotional upheaval
 - Insecurity
 - Contentment
 - Are there times in the life of a believer when it's OK not to do the work of God? *Hint: II Thessalonians 3:10*
- Why does the talent need to be multiplied? *Hint: James 2:17-20; II Cor. 3:6-8*
 - To work a talent, will it be convenient or inconvenient? Of what are we guilty?
- Isn't God full of mercy...why no second chance? Does this parable disprove the modern day church's view of the rapture? *Heb. 9:27*
- What is a "good and faithful servant"? *Matt. 24:45-46*
 - Where is the "joy of the Lord"? *Ps. 16:11*

VERSE of the WEEK

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
-II Cor. 4:7

SUGGESTION FOR PRAYER

- PRAY THAT AT THE DAY OF RECKONING THE LORD WILL SAY "WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT."