

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Talent**

"Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful." – John Wooden

"Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a Sun-dial in the shade? – Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1750

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." – Leo Buscaglia

"A really great talent finds its happiness in execution." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"No one respects a talent that is concealed." – Desiderius Erasmus

Although debated by some, it appears that everyone has talent of one kind or another. The Lord Himself in one of His noted parables, makes us aware that some possess several talents. "...and to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability..." (Matt. 25:15).

Now it is true, there was a unit of measurement in Scripture known as a *Talent*. In some instances it was of gold, and other times of silver. Its first usage was in the construction of the Old Testament tabernacle.

But in this instance, we are not talking of something of monetary value, but rather an ability that one possesses that, shall we say, stands out from others. For example, some have musical ability that is often referred to as *talent*. For others it may be public speaking, or in the field of athletics, etc.

There are those individuals in the Lord's church that have multiple talents when it comes to helping with the Lord's work. Perhaps they have the ability to be a good teacher and also have an uncanny ability with technology. We often remark that such individuals are "talented."

The concern, even evidenced in the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), is the refusal to use, in God's service, the talent or talents with which one has been blessed. Even in the church today, one can be puzzled to know that there are those with enough talent to teach, but they refuse to act.

Remember in the parable that the lord was very displeased with the man who had one talent and refused to use it! "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant...So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents'" (Matt. 25:26,28).

What is sad are the number of brethren who, even though they know of this parable, still refuse to utilize their God-given talent in the Lord's work! Do they really think the Master is going to be pleased?

