

Introduction:

What Gifts has God given you? Are you using them for his glory? In Mark 25:14-30 see the story of three servants and how their master dealt with them according to their faithfulness (or lack thereof). You can find Pastor Mark's sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



“Use all you are and all you have for God’s glory.”

Scripture:

Please read [Mark 25:14-30 in your bible, or click here.](#)

So What?

“In the parable of the talents ([Mark 25:14-30](#)) Jesus tells the story of a rich man who heads out of town on a long journey. Prior to leaving, he entrusts his portfolio and possessions to three trusted servants. In this parable we learn the following principles: **1)** God has entrusted some of his resources to each of us (14-18). Therefore, *we are to use all we are and all we have for God’s glory.* **2)** God will hold us accountable for what we do with his resources (19-30). **3)** We see that faithfulness will be rewarded (20-23) while unfaithfulness will be punished (24-30). It is significant to note that rewards are NOT based on results. Rewards are based on faithfulness. Likewise, the one who was punished was punished because he was not faithful. This was because he had a false view of his master and did nothing with what he was given. Instead of receiving praise, the master calls him lazy and wicked. Instead of receiving a promotion, he loses what he was given. How are you investing your life? David Garland posed a rather convicting question, “When Christ returns, he will not ask if one had the date right but ‘What have you been doing?’” ***Use all you are and all you have for God’s glory.***³

What Now?

1. The servant who was rejected had a wrong view of the master. In verse 25 he describes him as a hard man who takes what is not his. The master is incredulous, and tells the servant in verse 26-27 that if this were the case that it should have motivated him to at least do the minimum, yet he did nothing with what he was given. Sometimes God calls us to do very difficult things, and we might be tempted to give up and say, “He is just plain wrong. He has picked the wrong person.” We want to keep a right view of who God is. He is not a harsh task master who sets us up for failure, but a loving God who helps us do his will. Look up [Matthew 11:28-30](#). How does Jesus’ description of himself compare with that given by the lazy servant?
2. How are we using what the Lord has given us? Are we content to take what we have been given and bury it in the ground (so to speak), or are we willing to put what we have been given to work for the glory of our master? You may feel as though you have nothing of significance to give, but remember this: What you have you have received from God, and he is able to make it multiply if you put it to use. Read [1 Cor 3:6-9](#) and [Eph 3:20-21](#). How does this compare with what we have learned about how God works with his people and what they do to serve him?
3. While we all have various levels of ability and resources, we have one God, and the Gifts he gives us are perfect ([James 1:17](#)). When we use what we have to serve God to the best of our abilities, he rewards our faithfulness. Do you have un-utilized gifts from God?

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/10/18/how-are-you-investing-your-life/>

² <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

³ This text has been adapted from Pastor’s sermon notes.