



PREVIEW

Today we visit a fairly common parable in the New Testament book of Mathew where we find Jesus teaching His followers about talents. We are undoubtedly amidst the generation with the greatest ability and potential ever seen in the history of our world. The greatest question, however, is what will we do with that ability and potential? Will we let it collect dust? Or will we use it for God's kingdom?

PRAISE

Have every student look up pictures of once buried items that have been recovered and have them share what they have found.

PARABLE

After viewing these pictures, it is pretty easy to see that once something is buried, it is not gaining value, but often losing its value. The earth begins breaking down the materials and what might've once been valuable to a person is now dirty and tattered. The same goes for when we hide or bury the talents that God has given us. Let's read into Jesus' advice to his followers to gain some wisdom and perspective.

PRESENT

Have each student read a verse from the passage Mathew 25:14-30. The message and explanation of this parable is pretty straight forward. The servants that put their talents to use were rewarded with two times the talents that they started with, and their Master was pleased with them.

Buried GIFTS

PRESENT *(continued)*

The one servant that buried his talent was stripped of all that he had been given and disposed of. The Master had no more use for him. This message is very applicable to the young people of this generation. God had given all of us talents, and some of us more than others, but indeed all of us have the opportunity to use what God has given us to bring glory to His kingdom. While we don't have all the information, there are many reasons why the "wicked and lazy" servant hid his talent. He likely felt insecure and inferior to the other servants because he had been given less talents. These feelings likely led to jealousy and bitterness against the Master. However, these feelings would be misguided and reflect a poor character. Like the Master said in the end, "Those who use what they are given will have abundance, but those who do nothing will have their little taken away." Instead of getting upset that you can't sing, or write, or dance, or whatever like the person next to you, use your specific talents in harmony with each other so we can multiply the kingdom together!

PRACTICE

What are some ways that we can use the talents that God has given us? (Volunteer at P7, church, school, etc.) Find a way to match up your God-inspired interests with your talents and God will take you far. The greatest tragedy we could witness would be for a generation with this much ability to have unfulfilled potential because of its satisfaction with comfort. In other words, instead of being lazy, let's be proactive with what God has given us! If we aren't, He is perfectly capable of taking our talents and giving them to a more willing vessel. At the end of the day, they are not our gifts to bury. Read James 1:17. Every gift is from God, and it is our responsibility to use those gifts for His glory. God has trusted us with these special gifts, so let's not let him down!

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PRAY

God, we are so thankful for the unique abilities and talents that You have given each and every one of us, and we understand that these are not to be used for our own glory, but to magnify and bring glory to Your name! Help us to not be jealous of one another but to encourage and inspire each other to serve you with our gifts. In Jesus Name, amen!

PLUS

Find ways this week to use the talents that God has given you to bless someone else. Maybe it's singing and sending a happy birthday video to someone or designing a cool birthday card for them. God made us all unique for a reason! If we were all the same life would be boring and mundane, so use your uniqueness to share God's love!