



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

48 Days Series: Talents

Ps James Lowe – September 27, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- If external factors were not an issue, what would you choose to do for a living?
- When you were a child, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up?
- What is one thing you think you can do better than anyone else in this room?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As **each has received a gift**, use **it to serve one another**, as **good stewards of God's varied grace**: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in **everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:8 – 11*

This passage makes four clear statements concerning our gifts and talents. Let's analyze the implications of each one of them.

1. God has given each of us talents

Each of you has a gift, like each of us has a fingerprint. Each of us has a pattern that is unique. God has pre-ordained that in you. It's not based on your goodness or abilities, God called you while you were a sinner. It's by grace. No one is without purpose. God will help us narrow our focus and hit the mark. We need to be faithful students of what He has given by His unmerited favor.

2. Our gifts and talents are for the benefit of others.

We are recipients of those gifts, not for our own benefit, but for the blessing of others. We ought to use them to serve. We often think they are for our benefit. You are the secondary beneficiary. The gift is to honor God by dispensing it to others and we are blessed in return. The only way to be able to use our gifts for the benefit of others is when we cover the gift with the love of God. In the passage above, before dealing with the issue of gifting, the apostle admonishes us to keep loving one another earnestly. If you love earnestly -like God loved us- we will still bless the people around us despite their shortcomings. A great example of this truth is in marriage.

3. We are stewards of God's given gifts and talents

Matthew 25: 14 – 17, 26-27 tells us the story of a Master who gives different amount of talents to his servant. The story makes the point that hiding one's talent in the ground is sin. Don't bury your talent rather steward those gifts faithfully.

1 Cor 4:1 "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."

How can we be good stewards of Gods gifts? *First*, a good steward **knows** what the gift is, what it is for, and how they are using it. God will investigate what we are doing with our gifts.

Secondly, a good steward **employs** his or her gift without excuses. Many times people like to tell others their horror stories about why they can't use their gifts. God gave us the gift because He has entrusted us with it. We can say we are blessed because God says we are blessed. At any moment, we need to be ready to use our gift. It is work, and through it we are blessed. God started out world through work. He worked for six days creating the world and then rested one day. God loves work. This is a value we need to pass on to the next generation. We must teach our children to work and serve. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go (according to their spiritual proclivity and talent); even when he is old he will not depart from it." Don't teach your child entitlement. Don't allow them to be lazy.

Thirdly, a good steward is **productive**. God's intention since the creation is for our talents to produce a profit. (Gen 2:4, 15) The first man, Adam, worked and God increased his work. His work was not just profitable; it was pleasurable. You can be educated, but not productive. Many jobs now and in the future require thinking skills, common sense, emotional intelligence, and leadership abilities. God has granted all those things to his children. In the early United States, people wanted candidates for public office who were self-made according to the Protestant work ethic. People wanted proof that a candidate knew how to work and go from nothing to something.

4. Our gift and talents ought to bring glory to God

When we use our gifts to serve others, God gets the glory. God is glorified when people are reached, touched, ministered and served through the gifts he has placed in you. God gets glorified when we steward our gifts and become productive. God gets glorified through the excellence of our work and service.

Do not burry your gifts! Use them for the benefit of others and the glory of God. People need your service. God deserves you giving him the glory!

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What gifts has God invested in you? Who does benefit from those gifts and talents?
- Is there anything that has been holding back your gifts? How can you steward them better?
- Is God being glorified through your gifts and talents? What are the evidences?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray God help you identify your gifts, what he has called you to do and what he not called you to do.
- Pray that God's name may be glorified through the gifts he has placed in you.
- Pray that he will makes you fruitful in the gifts he has given you.