

THE BEAT OF MY HEART

Bring it on,

MONDAY

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

Be ...

distinctive

So, here's the story ...

(Keep watch, because you don't know when the Lord will come ... (and your life and opportunity to do good will be over.) ...

Jesus said it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five talents (valuable coins), to another he gave two talents, and to another one, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So did the one with two talents; he gained two more. But the man who had received one went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master returned. The man who had received five talents brought the other five.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

The man with two talents also came, offering the added two talents. Pleased, his master responded the same way with him.

Then the man who had received one talent came.

'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, ... so I was afraid and went out and hid your money in the ground.'

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy (unproductive) servant. You should have put my money to work, investing it, making a good return on it.'

Read the story for yourself in Matt. 25:14-30

Take it to God

Ask God to show you how He wants you to use the gifts and talents He entrusted to you.

Halfway there
WEDNESDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

You wanna be ...

breezy
relaxed; carefree;
easy-going; cheery;
casual; light-hearted

or

touchy
overly sensitive; irritable;
bad-tempered; testy;
peevish; fretful

‘... And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.’
-- **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Throw your hands up
THURSDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

Make a difference ...

Step up:

When you see someone belittle their own strengths or talents, be sure to be supportive of them. Be positive. Let them know what their effort means to you. Everybody could benefit from a little attention and encouragement now and then — especially if they aren't feeling very confident.

Take it up a notch:

Ever thought of collaborating on a project with someone? Maybe you are very artistic and a classmate is good with writing. What if the two of you got together to write an inspiring children's book and illustrated it? Maybe you could donate the book to the local hospital or an elementary school library in your community. Find ways to make a difference in people's lives with the things you are good at.

Poll your friends ...

Do you feel like your talents are gifts that come from God?

Yes

No

God did lots of miraculous things on the earth.
Read about one of them here:

Genesis 9:13

FRIDAY

Finale

Talent are too valuable to be buried or ignored



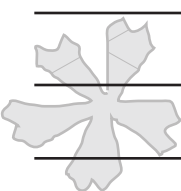
WEEKEND

Woofoo!

A.M.

Sat.

Noon



P.M.

Sun.

EvE

Okay, so you've now heard of the rich guy who was annoyed with his servant who failed to be productive with the money he had entrusted him. In the same way, God entrusts us with the gifts and talents He gave us. He equipped us with them so they could be used for His glory. If we don't do anything with them, it's a lot like the dude who buried the coin. What is the use of the boss making such a substantial investment, if the employee is just going to put it in a hole in the ground and ignore it? This is why the rich man was upset. The investment he had delegated to the servant had great potential to produce a big return.

God has assigned particular talents to us, fully expecting them to be used to benefit His plan to save the world. Have you ever invested a lot into something (like time or effort or money) just to have others waste it or ignore its value? For example, you were asked to clean the whole house because company was coming over. You spent hours scrubbing and picking up and cleaning, only to watch a bunch of people trash the place (and leave it a mess) when they were done. How did that make you feel? Unappreciated? Undervalued? Your efforts (that cost you a lot of work) were completely taken for granted? That hurts. God knows.

Did you know?

A talent was a heavy coin made of silver or gold that only royalty or millionaires used because it was worth so much. Commoners did not have that kind of cash:

- 1 talent = 60 Hebrew minae
- 1 talent = 3,000 Hebrew shekels
- 1 talent = 6,000 Greek drachmae
- 1 talent = 6,000 Roman denarii (plural for a denarius)

One denarius was the equivalent of a full day's pay for a soldier or laborer back then. A talent was worth 6,000 of those. So this wasn't just pocket change. Cha-ching.

So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's
VIEW

The story Jesus told in the parable of the talents can teach us several things.

1.) We have a job to do. God equipped us with what we need to accomplish things He wants to do in people's lives. It's important work, too.

When we get saved through Jesus and His redeeming grace, that's not simply "mission accomplished."

There are others still hurting and lost out there — needing a Savior.

I read a great line somewhere recently that sums it up perfectly: Too many Christians see their salvation as a bus ticket to Heaven — and now they are just sitting around waiting for the bus to get here.

Well, let me just remind you, there's a lot to be done before that bus ride, folks. There are others who should be catching that ride with you and me. We can't

leave them behind.

2.) Just like the rich man handing coins to the servants, God has given us the tools we need to do His work. He's not expecting us to scramble around trying to come up with what we need. We already have it.

If we are called to do something, He has got us stocked up with enough talent (valuable skills) for it.

3.) If you remember, there are three servants in the story. One of them was given the responsibility of investing five talents. Another guy was to make good with two talents. The third one was to be productive with one talent. This tells us that people are expected to be responsible for what they are provided with, not what others have. If I only have one talent, God is not demanding me to compete with the one with 5 talents. (Now, if I somehow manage

to invest it that wisely, then, cool, but you get what I mean.) Not everyone will be pulling the same weight. He has different jobs at different levels for everyone.

Remember, we're all unique? Some people will be able to offer lots of money to ministries around the world. Some people will be able to give their time toward local projects. Some may be physically unable to do that, but they can be a powerhouse in prayer. We have to stop comparing our progress to other people. It doesn't look the same. It won't. And every single one of those jobs — and countless others — is just as vital as what you see someone else doing.

4.) The gifts God has given us are not our own. They belong to Him. We have been allowed the honor of using them to do His will. They are not there so we

can focus on what we want. It's like running into the store for mom with \$5 for milk. That \$5 has a specific purpose tied to it. And you already know what kind of response you're going to get from mom when you come out with donuts and candy instead of what she sent you in there for. lol

5.) Another thing the story show us, is that God is going to be checking out what you did with the stuff He assigned into your care. You have the opportunity to make a real difference in life, just like God planned. Get with Him and find out what your purpose is, and how He wants you to accomplish it.

Believe me, if He has a job for you (and He does) — and you sincerely seek His guidance — He will make it clear.

Ponder this:

This week, have you used your talents to help someone out or make them feel better?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank ...)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

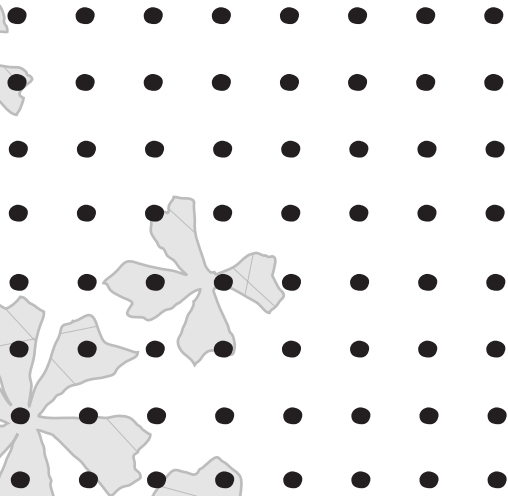
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

Judges 16

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

terrific

Matthew 7:7

answer on page 321

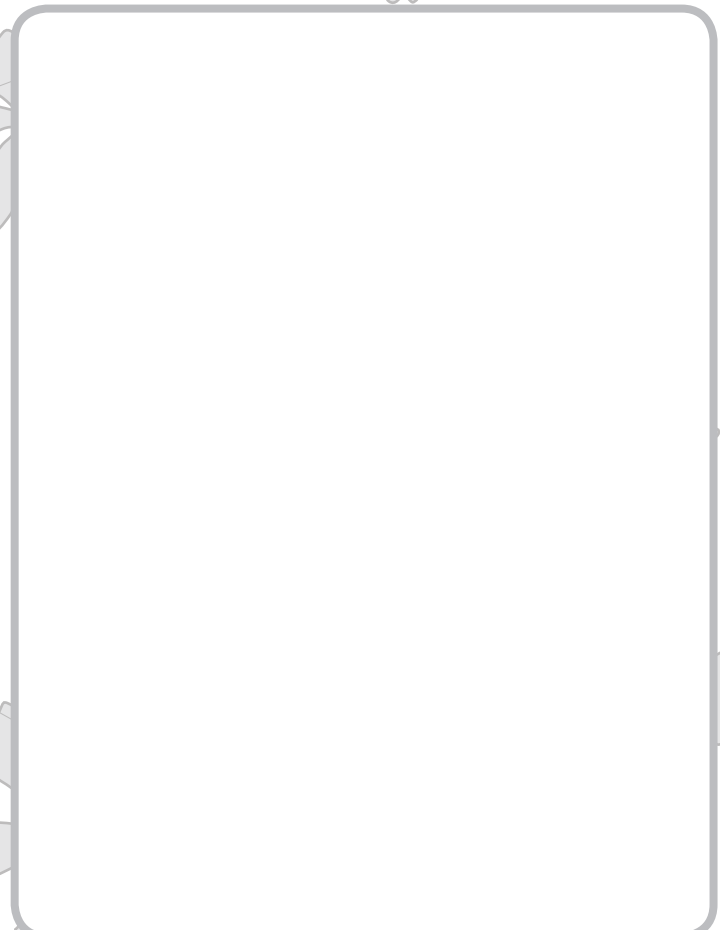
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TALENTS
FIVE
TEN
ONE
BUSINESSMAN
BURIED

INVEST
FAITHFUL
ABILITY
GAINED
MASTER
SERVANT

MONEY
HOLE
RETURN
JOURNEY
WEALTH
COINS

Doodle Box



Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



R E M E M B
E E K L R E
P H I L G O
R P S I W D
O M I S E S

answer on page 337

