

INVEST YOUR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS TO DO THE GOOD WORKS GOD HAS PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR YOU TO DO

For (The Kingdom of Heaven) will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours."

But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." - Jesus (Matthew 25:14-30 ESV)



What is a Talent?

- ▶ Personal wealth
- ▶ Personal abilities - natural aptitude or skill

According to the abilities of each man. (Matthew 25:17)

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. (Romans 12:6)

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

- ▶ The kingdom that Jesus will establish on the earth when he returns
- ▶ The Master is going away, and will come back

Expectations of the Servants

- ▶ He entrusts his servants while he is away on his journey
- ▶ He expects them to produce

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:24-25)

"That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least?" (Matthew 25:26-27 MSG)

Return on Investment

- ▶ If the servant cannot steward the talent that they are given, then the Master will give it to someone else who will steward it
- ▶ If the servant will not steward the talent that they are given, the Master does not want to have anything to do with them.

Jesus is the Master.

- ▶ Jesus lived a life without sin, gave his life for us, and justly can offer salvation
- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

We are the servants.

- ▶ The Master Jesus is offering us new life

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- ▶ The Master Jesus is offering us purpose.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

FRAMEWORK FOR KINGDOM-MINDED LIVING

Recognize and Respond to God's Chiseling in Your Life

Romans 5:3-4; Philippians 3:10; Romans 12:12; 1 Corinthians 1:3-5

- ➔ Certain experiences are more likely than others to foster maturity, particularly experiences of suffering, loss, or adversity. If your current circumstances were part of God's plan to develop you as a person, what would you say He is up to?

Biblical Understanding / Worldview

Psalm 119: 9-11; 2 Timothy 3:16 ; Matthew 4: 4; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 1:1-3

- ➔ What is your current Bible reading plan? What Scripture are you meditating on?
- ➔ What is God calling you toward?

Prayerfully Ask The Lord for Direction

1 John 5:14; Psalm 34:15; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; John 14:26

- ➔ Ask the Lord for direction
- ➔ Test if it is of God
 - ➔ Was it a clear word or just an impression?
 - ➔ Does it exalt Christ? (John 16:14)
 - ➔ Is it scriptural? (Proverbs 30:5-6)
 - ➔ Do other Christians confirm it? (Proverbs 20:18, Proverbs 15:22)
 - ➔ Does God cause it to actually take place? (Isaiah 55:11, Deut. 18:21-22)
- ➔ Trust God's direction by stepping out in faith
- ➔ Surrender often asking God to continually show you His direction

You were designed by God to do Good Works

Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 22:37-38; Matthew 28:19-20

At Bloomingdale Church we place a high value on discipleship, helping people grow into who God designed them to be. Part of the discipleship journey includes being a good steward of every talent God entrusted to us including our unique combination of personality, strengths, skills, spiritual gifts, and passions. That's why we launched the Identity Profile Self-Awareness Tool (IPSAT), to help people discover, optimize and unleash the Kingdom Resources God put inside them.

- ➔ Engage in the IPSAT at bloomingdalechurch.org/ipsat



TALENT ENGAGEMENT

Missional Living: Neighbor Well / Biblical Hospitality / Business as Mission

- ➔ Making Room (He Reads Truth / She Reads Truth devotional plan)
- ➔ Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Plan for the World (Keller)
- ➔ God's Smuggler (Brother Andrew)
- ➔ Life in Community: Joining Together to Display the Gospel (Willis)
- ➔ Sign up to be a coach, host a neighborhood party, invite people into your home, etc



Building up the Church: Knowing, Understanding, and Using Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8-10: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues

Romans 12:6-8: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy

Ephesians 4:11: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher

Exodus 31:2-7: craftsmanship

- ➔ What are your top 2-3 Spiritual Gifts? (Not sure? ➔ bloomingdalechurch.org/myfit)
- ➔ Why did God give you each spiritual gift?
- ➔ Which of your spiritual gifts would you most want to develop now?



- ➔ Unlocking Your Giftedness (Clinton)
- ➔ Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-Given Talents (Winseman/Clifton)
- ➔ Volunteer Using Your Gifts (Start here ➔ bloomingdalechurch.org/myfit)

ACTION PLAN

- ➔ What is the most important action step you should take now?
- ➔ When will you complete this by?

- ➔ More resources, quotes, and follow-up ideas at bloomingdalechurch.org/talents