

ADELAIDE DEAF COMMUNITY CHURCH
17th Nov. 2002
Don't Bury your Talents. (Don't ignore your ability)
(Judges 4:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30)

Matthew 25:14-30 has both a warning and promise. It reminds us that God has given everyone a talent (special ability) and wants us to use it for Him, to use it towards His glory. But are we using what God has given us?

Some years ago, I think it was at Bible study, we were talking about people's ability; some were good at making things, some are good at organising people, some are good at nursing or medicine, some are good at counselling. But when it came towards ability of witnessing the gospel, most of them said, "I'm hopeless at that. Its not for me!" That made me sad. They judged themselves, and copped out. It's only others that can see a person's gifts, not the person himself. I could see that at least three of them could do this well, but they judged themselves out. Were they burying their talents?

I was guilty of that too. For ten years, I didn't want to be a pastor. I couldn't see myself doing this.

I wonder if there are many people out there in jobs they don't like? Maybe they should change, take a risk, and try something else more suitable? First, they need to seek advice. And pray about it. An answer may come.

1. Don't bury or waste your talent - it is from God.

God gives all of us our own talents. As I said before, some have a gift for that, and others have a gift for this. Talents like caring, welcoming people, counselling, fixing things, healing, witnessing, accounting, compassion. Some talents help a person make a lot of money, but for others, their talent doesn't mean a single cent, but earns many friends. Two retired gentlemen I read used their time to make beautiful toys from wood offcuts, collecting and fixing bicycles, and giving them all away to poor families. Let us hope that we are all using our talents usefully, in humbleness and love.

2. Don't Bury your Talent: it is to be used!

In our story, we read of the three servants. Two did well, but the third did not. He did not even try anything, but buried it.

Story; There was a company that made electrical goods. One salesman there appeared to be a "born loser," he dressed lousy, he couldn't spell, his English was very poor. But he was a fantastic salesman! The boss was very worried because overall sales were down. So he sent word to all staff/salesmen to attend very important meeting. But the "born loser salesman" replied, "I ain't got time to come meetin. Just sold 2000 stuff to custmer no. 13, gotta git goin ketch no.14, spect sel at least 4000. sorriy, scuse me" The surprised boss sent another circular out which read, "Forgit meetin. Git out yu bums, ketch all custmers, spect make big sales, git movin! The Boss."

Sometimes, we need to stop talking, stop "thinking," and git out there, do something. Develop your hidden talents, and God will bless it.

3. Don't Bury Your Talents, it is Eternal.

The third servant was thrown out. Lost his job (faith). Verse 30 says, "Throw that useless servant outside, into the darkness. In that place, people cry, gnash their teeth with pain." (hell)

Faithfulness in using your talents is rewarded two ways, an increase in responsibility, and joy. God will give you more, and joy comes from a job well done. Time goes quickly when we are happy with what we do, instead of looking at clock.

What is opposite of faithfulness? (Do nothing?) There's no reward, no joy, no satisfaction, no achievement, no one has been helped, time is totally wasted!

Don't bury or waste your talents. Use your talent for eternity! For Christ! Amen.