

SEIZING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE

Text: Matthew 25:14-29

Introduction:

Teenager, over the next few moments I want to share, from my heart what I believe to be one of the most important messages I have ever preached to teenager's! If you will listen and apply, I believe you will begin a journey toward developing, growing, and maturing quickly into a life of godly success!

"Success is not a journey; it is a destination!"

As we read a moment ago, God has entrusted you with talents... not just singing or physical abilities. I mean a part of Him within you... GIFTS! Interests, abilities, POTENTIAL! You have great potential to serve God and be used mightily for Him, but it all hinges on what you do with what He has placed within you...

First I want to encourage you to...

Discover Your Gifts

- Everyone has gifts (v. 14) - If you are a servant of God, He has given you unique abilities, gifts from Himself.

These gifts may be encouragement, mercy, prayer, etc.

These are things you can do uniquely! You can do them in a way that only you can.

- All gifts come from God (v. 14) (James 1:17) - Every unique interest within your heart is placed there by God as a gift from Him for His purposes in your life!
- Your gifts represent God Himself in your life (v. 14) - The unique placement of your gifts inside of you represents God's reality and His interest in you personally!
- God gives different people different gifts (v. 15) - Every servant gets a different gift according to his several ability!

Several = individual, separate.

Ability = Dunamis, miraculous power or ability

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Teenager - everyone in this room has not only been uniquely gifted by God, but you have been uniquely enabled or empowered by God. God not only chose your gifts, but He also chose and planned your ability to carry out or perform those gifts!! You cannot take the glory or the credit, and you cannot compare yourself to others!

Some teens spend all of their time comparing rather than discovering who they really are in God's plan!!!

- Discovering your gifts is a journey...of seeking God, evaluating your own abilities and interests, and following the leading of your parents in your life!!
- DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS IS WHERE GOOD SUCCESS BEGINS!!!

Develop Your Gifts

As we have discovered our gifts we have seen that.. you will not be accountable for how many gifts you have... but what you do with the gifts you do. You will answer for how you develop them. (v. 19) Someday you will stand before God and answer for what you have done with what He gave you!

- Receive your gifts as from the Lord (v. 16) - You will either look at your gifts as "lottery" or divine touch!

Think of something in which you are really are interested. Think of something you can do or would really be interested in doing. Perhaps that interest or ability is not placed in your life by accident or some cosmic lottery system!!

- Go and do something with your gift... (v. 16-17) - These servants went immediately after receiving their gifts and began to work with them and increase them! They were given one amount, but they invested and stewarded them until they had increased and grown!
- Whatever you do, don't bury your gifts (v. 18) - Fear, insecurity, laziness, silliness, apathy, immaturity, distraction and sin all cause me to take my God-given purpose and bury it beneath my own selfishness and stupidity!
- DEVELOPING YOUR GIFTS IS THE PREPARATION FOR GOOD SUCCESS

Surrender Your Gifts

(v.19) The Lord will soon call upon your gifts for His service! Not only in Heaven, but in this life... there will come a moment when God wants you to finally put all your

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preparation into practice! The moment when His purposes really begin to be fulfilled and carried out in your life!! There is no greater joy!! There is no greater turning point in life than that moment!

The moment when God opens the door...calls on you to step up and surrender your gifts and abilities! The point you realize that all you have, all you will be, and all you will ever become is only because God gifted you to do so!

There is no greater investment of life than full time ministry! There is no greater way to invest and spend your life and your gifts than in and through the ministry of the local church!! Why not volunteer?!

Conclusion:

(v. 29) When we fail to discover, develop and surrender our gifts to God's service...we ultimately lose it all!! We work all of our lives for things that we only lose in the end!!

v. 23 or v. 26 will be your story!

Jeremiah 4:3 Break up your fallow ground!! Wake up!

While there is no script for your life, there is a plan, purpose... and I challenge you to commit yourself to the journey of success... the journey of discovering, developing and surrendering your gifts completely to God and His purposes for your life!!

- SURRENDERING YOUR GIFTS IS WHERE GOOD SUCCESS IS ENJOYED!