

Where Does Your Ability Stop?

By *House to House Heart to Heart*, Victor M. Eskew, *The West Side Epistle*

Abilities are different from person to person. Some have many abilities; others have few. The abilities which we do have, whether few or many, have been given to us by God. These lessons are manifest in our Lord's parable of Matthew 25:14-30, which has been called "The Parable of the Talents."

Another lesson which one cannot help but see is that the Lord does not condemn a person because he has few talents, nor does He reward a man just because he has many talents. The five-talent man did not receive a blessing because of his many talents, but because he used the five talents he had. "So he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou delivered unto me five talents: behold I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:20-21).

On the other hand, the one-talent man was not condemned because of his one talent, but because he did not put the talent to use. "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; lo, there thou hast what is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant" (Matthew 25:24-26). We, too, will give account. We, too, will stand blessed or condemned, not because of the number of abilities which we possess, but because we have either used the talents, or have not used them.

Many people in the Lord's body possess talents. Many of them are as the one-talent man and are not using them. They will be cast "into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30). For one reason or another, they refuse to use the talent. To those who have buried their talent in the earth, we want to ask this question, "Where does your ability stop?"

With some individuals their abilities stop where their "I don't want to's" begin. It is not that one does not possess the ability to teach a Bible class, but he just does not want to. One may be able to lead singing, lead prayer, or wait on the Lord's Table; but his "I don't want to" keeps him from it. Members fail to make visits to shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals just because they simply do not want to.

With others, ability stops where indifference sets in. Multitudes of preachers could reprove false teaching, but they are indifferent to it since it does not directly affect them. Hundreds of Bible studies could be taking place, but the saved are indifferent to lost souls.

Another place where ability stops is when using the ability will cause time to be lost from more preferred activities. There are those who would rather watch television than prepare a dessert for a family facing a funeral. For a host of others, the beach takes precedence over Bible study. Clubs and associations are more important than the work of the church for scores of others.

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Emily Dodson, granddaughter of Bill Cockrum, will have surgery on May 21 to remove an ovary because of a cyst. Pray that both ovaries don't have to be removed.
- ♦ Halbert hasn't been feeling well this week.
- ♦ Dorlene Butler will have knee replacement surgery on May 17.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox (Dora), Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ♦ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

Congratulations to our Graduates:

- Logan Hillhouse—Gainesville High School—May 16
- Abbi Johnson—Gainesville High School—May 16
- Emma McGinnis—Gainesville High School—May 16
- Bryce Hambelton—CofO—May 10—Bachelor's in Exercise Science
- Sam Thompson—UMKC—May 17—Bachelor's in Civil Engineering
- Josh Luna—MSU—May 9—Master's in Religious Studies
- Madilyn Luna—MSU—May 9—Bachelor's in Elementary Education

Where does your ability stop? Is it where your "I do not want to" comes in? Could it be where indifference has stilled your soul? Maybe it is where time lost in other areas can be felt. It may be that your ability has stopped where your anger has begun. Remember the parable of the Master, whatever your excuse for not using your talents, you will stand condemned for not putting to use the talents which God has given you.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-26	Mark Lane	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
4-28	Rebecca Hambelton	5-22	Ryan and Amy Stevens
4-27	Barbara Stevens	5-25	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
4-29	Harold Reynolds	Birthdays	
5-5	Peggy Johnson	5-20	Gannon Schofield
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-23	Barbara Luna
5-15	Bentley Goodman	5-28	Ryan Stevens
5-16	Steve Clodfelter	5-29	Beth Wade
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-31	Julie Schofield

Esther will be serving barbecue meatballs, veggies, salad, mac and cheese, and dessert for our fellowship supper Wednesday night.

Thank you to all the ladies who attended and all those who helped prepare for, bring desserts, and clean up after the prayer brunch yesterday. Having lots of workers makes it easier. We had 66 ladies from 19 different churches. Karin Reynolds had a great talk.

Date	Event	Details
April 27-30	Spring Gospel Meeting—Thayer	Ben Wright from Jasper, Arkansas
May 2nd, 7:30 p.m.	Bonfire Devo behind the church	Gather around the bonfire and make smores.
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified!	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

May Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Today Don Luna
5-4 John Abraham
5-11 Mark Lane
5-18 David Stevens
5-25 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

John Abraham
Tinker Langston
Paul Wade
Titus Smith
Don Reynolds

Song Leader: Titus Smith; John Abraham

Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna; Tinker and Karen Langston

The Family News

April 27, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Transformed to Serve***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#694, *Servant Song*; #638, *Harvest Time*

#346, *He Lives*; Communion Service

#399, *Jesus Calls Us*

Sermon and Invitation

#166, *He's My King*

#853; *When We All Get to Heaven*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us