

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 159: God given gifts and abilities



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Matthew 25: 14-21

'Again, 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 bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more." 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!"'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Ephesians 4:1-16; Galatians 5:22-26

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

This parable helps us to think about how we can be faithful and use our God-given gifts and potential.

I love the final words: 'Well done... You have been faithful... Come and share your master's happiness.' There is also a warning in verse 29 that, if we do not use our gifts, we lose them.

When we meet people for the first time, we might talk about each other's interests. This can cover a huge range of activities from physical fitness to sport, music, art, and poetry.

If you have been on the *Sycamore Tree* course, you may remember a film featuring Sophie, a talented artist who found that her art helped her. She went on to help with an exhibition of prison art at the Southbank Centre which helped her regain her social skills after release.

One of the guest speakers who comes to our prison to talk about his experience of crime is a keen runner. This helped him with his recovery and enables him to stay positive and feel happier. He finds that his running makes it easier to deal with the ups and downs of life and he has a sense of joy and connection with nature.

So, let us think today about how we can develop our own talents and abilities. Let's use them to help others and ourselves and give thanks to God for the gifts He has given us.

### Reflections:

- Think about what you like to do; what interests you? If you want to, write about it on the back of this sheet.
- Consider whether you could use your gifts and talents this week?
- Bring these thoughts and plans before God in prayer, thanking God for the gifts He has given you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

