

Let us turn to the 25th chapter of Matthew and hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.(reading text)

These two passages which follow one another here in Mat. 25 are of course not discussing salvation. Salvation is assumed in them. It is assumed that we truly belong to the Lord. Because our works do not whether we are saved. It is only His work. What Jesus did for us on Calvary and whether we have personal faith in Him that determines whether we are saved. But this is given to those who are the servants of Christ. They are presenting to them the tremendous importance of the fact that they have a few weeks on this earth in which to serve him--10, 20, 30 perhaps 100, but never more than that that I've ever heard of. It is limited compared to the whole stretch of time that has past since the Lord was here.

We have these years and God has given us certain talents and He wants us to use them for his glory. Whether we use them or waste them, whether we use them or bury them in the ground-- what we do with them is tremendously important.

So I'd like to say a few words about the talents, the gifts the Lord has given us to use in His service. I put what I'd like to say in seven points. These points are not equal in length or importance. Some take much longer than others, but I thought it would perhaps be useful if I'd arrange them that way.

The first is that every Christian has gifts for service for Christ. There is no Christian who cannot accomplish considerable for Christ. There is no Christian who cannot accomplish a great deal for Christ if he is truly consecrated. If he places whatever gifts and talents he has at the Lord's disposal everyone of us has gifts. But we're too apt to be afraid of what people with think about them. Too afraid to make a fool of ourselves in trying to do something we're not sure we can do well, instead of asking the question, Is there a need here? Is there a possibility that I might be able to fill the need?

We all have talents the Lord can use. We may be unaware of talents we have. The story is told of two women in England who were aged and bedridden. They read an account of the work D. L. Moody did in Chicago. D. L. Moody was comparatively little known then. They read of the way the Lord had used him in Chicago and they prayed that he might come to England, and do a work for Christ there. For some years they prayed, but said nothing to anyone outside about what they were doing. Then one day a nephew of one of them who lived with them came home Sunday morning from church. He came in and said--they said, Did you have a good church service? He said, Fair. They said, What was the matter? Oh, there was a fellow from America there speaking, and I wasn't particularly impressed. Well, what was his name? His name was D. L. Moody."

Moody was hardly known at the time. These women had been praying he would come to England but had no idea he would do so