

A photograph of a sunset over a calm lake. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The silhouettes of trees and a forest line the shore, and their reflections are visible in the still water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Parable of the Talents

Often we hear someone say, “I’m as good
as...”

Or maybe we hear, “I’m better than...”

These statements are judgments.

Paul teaches that we are foolish to compare ourselves with others.

II Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

Those who want to do this should compare themselves to Jesus and then see how they measure up.

We will benefit far more to deal with Bible teachings than comparing ourselves with one another.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the parable of the talents.

The servants are given a differing number of talents. “Each according to his own ability,” is what we read in verse 15.

One of the messages Jesus is trying to get across to us is, we will not be as productive in exactly the same amount.

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us.

Then, what should our attitude be?

I Samuel 3:10—Samuel listened to God and gave Him his best

Isaiah 6:8—Isaiah listened to God and gave Him his best

Acts 9:3-6—Saul listened to Jesus and the message of Jesus which came through Ananias and gave Him his best.

Today no matter who you are, young or old,
rich or poor, many talents or few

God

Expects

Our

Best

Why Should We Give God Our Best?

God has given us His Best.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:6-8

While we were still weak, at the right time
Christ died for the ungodly.

For one will hardly die for a righteous man;
though perhaps for a good man one will dare
even to die.

But God shows His love for us in that while we
yet sinners, Christ died for us.

This is why God expects our best.

God accepts only the best.

Genesis 4:4—The best animal sacrifice.

Deuteronomy 26:10—The best in the offering.

Christ Jesus gave us His best.

John 10:17-18

Therefore my Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

Jesus expects our best.

Mark 10:28-30

Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.”

So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s,

Who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

In Mark 12:41-44, we read of the widow's mite.

Jesus said she gave more than the rest
because she gave all she had.

Jesus expects no more or no less from us
today.

Jesus expects our very best—our life, our
everything.

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service.

What Are The Areas We Must Give Our Best.

We must give God our best worship.

God does not accept all worship.

He rejected Cain's offering.

He rejected the offerings of the people back in
the days of Malachi.

Sometimes we have the attitude of “take it or leave it Lord.”

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe.

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

We must give God our best effort.

Paul, in his writings, compares the Christian life to running a race.

I Corinthians 9:24-25

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

And everyone who competes for the prize exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

When you run a race or compete in anything you give it your best effort.

So it should be with the Christian life.

Paul says, “Run in such a way that you may obtain it” or “win.”

Lost souls deserve our best effort.

Suppose you are the lost soul.

What kind of effort would you want others to make to save you.

I Corinthians 9:22

I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some.

We need to examine our motives in order to give God our best effort.

II Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified.

We Must Give God The Best Of Our Time

Seeking first the kingdom is the way to use our time.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Wholesome recreation and visiting are good activities, but cannot come before the kingdom of God.

We need to remember God in our youth.

Ecclesiastes 11:9

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them.

We need to give God our best obedience.

Jesus is our best example.

Hebrews 5:8-9

Though He were a Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Our best obedience is prompted by the best motives.

Faith in God.

Our faith should move us to action.

James 2:18

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Hope of eternal life will prompt us to
obedience.

I John 2:25

And this is the promise that He has promised
us—eternal life.

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot
lie, promised before time began.

Love for God and for the things he has done for us should move us to obedience.

Matthew 22:37

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.



ARE YOU

GIVING

GOD

YOUR BEST?

Given by David Hamlin at the Hollister Missouri
church of Christ on 11-5-06 pm.

www.hollisterchurchofchrist.org