



# From Horseshoes to Swiss Watches



## What Have We Done With Our Raw Materials?

- We do not have the same gifts
  - 1Peter 4:10-11 - “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

## What Have We Done With Our Raw Materials?

- Rom. 12:4-8, 11 - “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness... 11 Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”

## What Have We Done With Our Raw Materials?

- The raw material we began with doesn't matter as much as what we do with it.
  - 1Cor. 4:1-2, 7 - "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful... 7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"
  - 1Cor. 12:12-27

## What Have We Done With Our Raw Materials?

- The Lord requires us to do something with our raw material
  - Luke 19:12-27

## God Expects Humankind To Reach Their Potential

- Ex. 35:10 - “All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the LORD has commanded”
- Ex. 36:1-2 - “And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded. 2 Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.”

## God Expects Humankind To Reach Their Potential

- Ex. 28:2-4 - “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. 3 So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. 4 And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.”

# God Expects Humankind To Reach Their Potential

- God has no tolerance for mediocrity and laziness
  - Ecc. 10:18 - “Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks.”
  - Prov. 24:30-32 - “I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. 32 When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction”



## God Expects Humankind To Reach Their Potential

- Prov. 12:24 - “The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.”
- Prov. 13:4 - “The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.”
- Prov. 26:16 - “The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.”
- Judges 18:9 - “So they said, Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land.”

## God Expects Humankind To Reach Their Potential

- “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’” (Erma Bombeck)
- “If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.” (Thomas A. Edison)
- “Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.” (Leo Buscaglia)

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Ownership: Everything I have belongs to God
  - Job. 1:21 - “And he said: Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD”
  - Matt. 25:14 - “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Allocation: God has given me some talents
  - Matt. 25:15 - “And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”
  - Rom. 12:6 - “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Accountability: God expects me to use them
  - Matt. 25:19 - “After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Utilization: It is wrong to neglect what God gave to me
  - Matt. 25:18, 26 - “But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money... 26 But his lord answered and said to him, You wicked and lazy servant”
  - Rom. 14:23 - “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin”
  - Heb. 11:6 - “Without faith it is impossible to please Him”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Motivation: Fear keeps me from developing my talent.
- Fear is Satan's favorite tool. He has three kinds:

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Self-doubt - “I could never do that; I'm not qualified.”
  - Matt. 25:25 - “And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.”



# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Self-pity - “I've failed so much in the past that I'm never trying again.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Self-consciousness - “What will other people think?”
  - Prov. 29:25 - “The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.”
  - Matt. 25:24 - “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Application: If I don't use it, I will lose it
  - Matt. 25:28-30 - “Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- Compensation: If I use my talents, I'm going to be rewarded
  - Matt. 25:21 - “His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

# How Do I Use All That I Have?

- God promises three rewards:
  - Affirmation - “Well done.”
  - Promotion - “You've been faithful with a few things; I'll trust you with many more.”
  - Celebration - “Enter into the joy of your Lord”

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Only one life will soon be past;

Only what's done for Christ will last.

(From the poem Only One Life by C. T. Studd)