



WEEK THREE: CALLED TO SERVE

July 29, 2012

By Carey Madding

Every Western hero has a special gift. He may be the fastest gun, the best shot, or have the most incredible stallion. She may have the moral high ground or amazing courage. There is always something a little different that gives the hero the edge needed to overcome.

This weekend, we talked about the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. We paid special attention to verse 23. It should be the goal of every believer to follow well and do what Jesus did. Is it your heart's desire to hear, at the end of your life journey, "Well done, my faithful servant"? If so, you must use your gift! You must consider serving. It's required.

[Wide-angle shot: Hero rides into the sunset. Fade to black.]

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Would you say that you have been given five talents, two talents, or just one talent? Have you invested them and are seeing a "return" on that investment? Or, would you say that you're sitting on your talent and not really making any "profit" for your Lord?

THE CALLED

WEEK THREE: CALLED TO SERVE – STUDY GUIDE

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and 11-27.** Think about the following questions and write down your observations.
 - a. Why are the spiritual gifts given to individuals in the family of God?
 - b. Who makes the decision about who gets what spiritual gift?
 - c. What part of the body is the most important? Which has the greatest honor? And what does this have to do with spiritual gifts?
 - d. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

- 3) Make a list of the major spiritual gifts as found in the Epistles below. Just list the different types of talent, ministry or service you find in each passage. If you don't understand it, mark it and do a little study on that particular gift. Then ask your group.
 - a. **Romans 12:6-8, 13**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**
 - c. **1 Corinthians 12:28**
 - d. **Ephesians 4:11-13**

THE CALLED

WEEK THREE: CALLED TO SERVE – STUDY GUIDE

- b. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4,9,28.** Do you recognize the Greek word Charismata in these verses? Do you see how the English words “grace” and “gifts” are used interchangeably to come back to the same meaning?
- c. We can become confused by the difference in “spiritual gifts” and “bearing spiritual fruit.” Let’s look at some verses that talk about what the fruit of the Spirit really is. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Do you recognize the differences?
- 8) If you are unsure about your spiritual gift, there is a link to an online gift assessment test [here](#). Remember, as Mike mentioned earlier in this series, finding out your gift should be motivated by your desire to make God famous and to serve others, not just for personal interest. Pray before, during and after the test, that God would use you for His glory and His purposes!