

Influence Ministries

WATER WALKERS

LESSON 2

TITLE: THE TRAGEDY OF THE UNOPENED GIFT

Did you know that God has given us at least one great gift? And cares a lot about how we use it.

What does our gift have to do with stepping out of the boat and walking on water?

Today, I want to start our lesson by asking you to identify a gift, a talent, or ability that God has given you.

It may be something that you enjoy doing a lot, something that you're good at.

This is not a time to be modest; God gives everybody gifts.

I'm going to ask you to hit the pause button on this lesson for two minutes, and each of you share around the room quickly what your gift, talent, or ability is.

PAUSE TEACHING

When you have a great gift, there are two ways you can look at it.

One way is that you could look at the gift and say, this gift is too valuable to be used; it's too valuable to risk.

The other way you could look at it is that it's too valuable not to be used.

A few minutes ago, on your discussion, every one of you should've shared a valuable gift or hobby or talents that God has given you.

And you would not fulfill your mission as a human being if you don't use the gift God has given to you.

"THE TRAGEDY OF THE UNOPENED GIFT" BY Gregg Levoy

"To sinful patterns of behavior that never get confronted and changed,

abilities and gifts that never get cultivated and deployed

until weeks become months

and months turn into years,

and one day, you're looking back on a life of

deep, intimate, gut-wrenchingly honest conversations you never had;

great bold prayers you never prayed,

exhilarating risks, you never took,

sacrificial gifts you never offered,

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lives you never touched,

and you're sitting in a recliner with a shriveled soul,

and forgotten dreams, and you realize there was a world of desperate need,

and a great God calling you to be part of something bigger than yourself –

you see the person you could have become but did not.

You never followed your calling.

You never got out of the boat.”

One of Jesus 's most remarkable stories are about a person who had a great incredible gift, and he just buried it.

Jesus is talking about three people that had a once in a lifetime opportunity.

God has entrusted you with the gift that He has given to you. It matters what you do with that gift.

The second part of the story is the Lord of the gift is also the Lord of the settled account.

Jesus says that one day the master comes back, and he settles the account with these three individuals.

He asks of each servant, what did you do with the gift or the talent or the resources or the ability that I gave you?

The idea here is, all of us are going to answer that question to God someday.

He will not ask you what did you do with something that I gave somebody else.

He's going to ask you what did you do with what I gave you.

The man that had five talents and the other man that had two talents, they both invested, and they took risks and chances.

It's the guy that received one talent that buried what was given to him.

When the master comes back, he says to those that were faithful to those what was given to them, well done, good and faithful servant.

He says something remarkable; he said, you've been faithful in a few things, so now I'm going to put you in charge of many things.

Think about that gift, that ability, or the talent you shared with the group early on in this lesson.

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That gift that some of you expressed, it's possible you haven't used that in a long time.

Remember what Jesus said about the third servant that had the one talent? He took it out and buried it.

It may be, for a long time, that your gift has been buried.

Maybe you've been afraid; perhaps you didn't want to take a risk; maybe you just kind of got stuck in a routine.

But I want you to know that the Lord of the gift is perfectly capable of redeeming buried gifts.

So, I don't care how long it's been buried; it doesn't make any difference how hopeless it seems to you.

God can reclaim the gift that he's giving you and use it in incredible, beautiful ways if you'll just let him start. In this lesson is the perfect time the Lord of the gift is also the Lord of the reward.

SO, USE YOUR GIFT.