

Use Your Talents

January 21st 2024



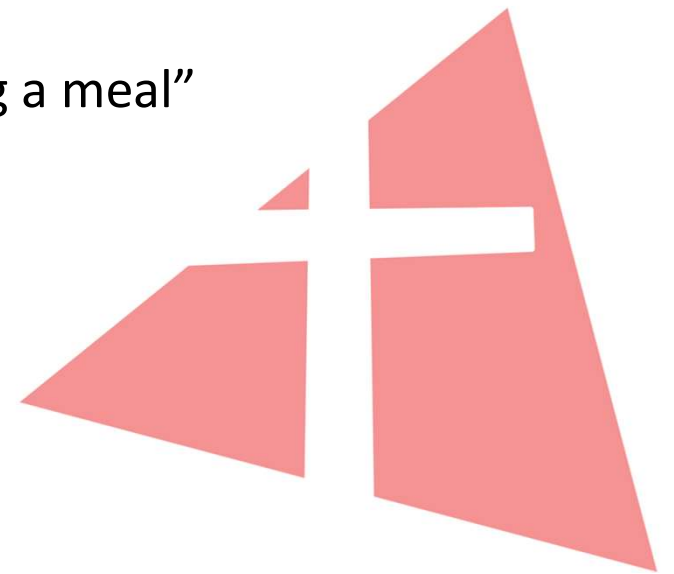
Immediate

- **Short Sermon Series on “Taking the Initiative”**
- **Prepare/Enrich for around 2 months**
 - Working with the couples who attended in November



Immediate/Soon

- **Monthly Prayer Meeting**
- **Monthly Meals**
 - Include Testimonies and evolve the idea beyond “just having a meal”
- **Reaching Refugees: Explore the possibilities**
- **Money Talk in the Spring**



Long Term

- Aletheia Kindergarten

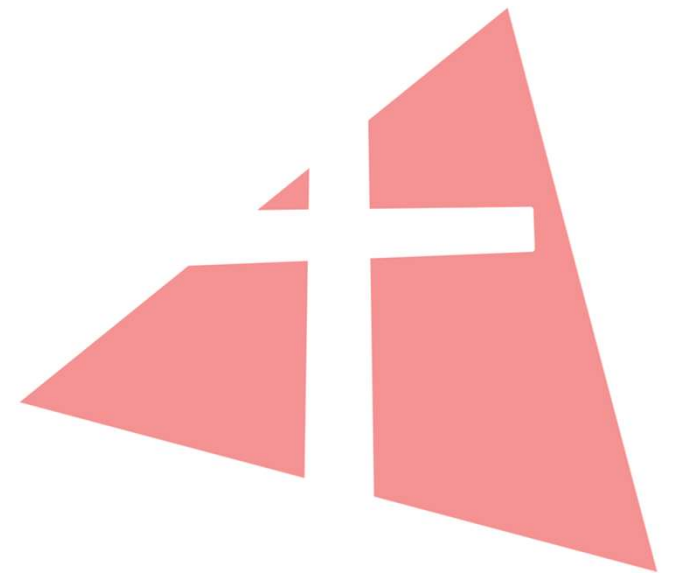


Last Sunday

- **Take the Initiative!**

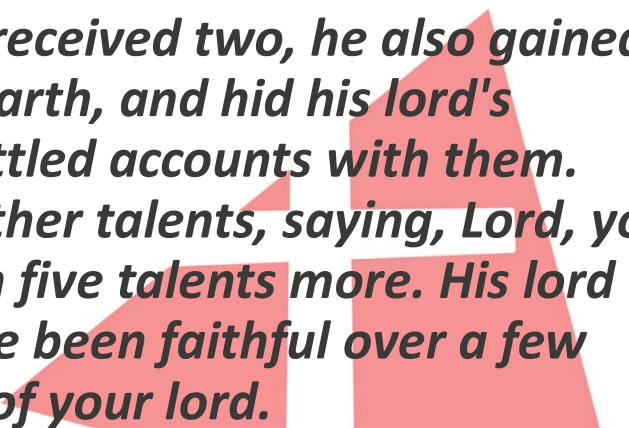


Use Your Talents



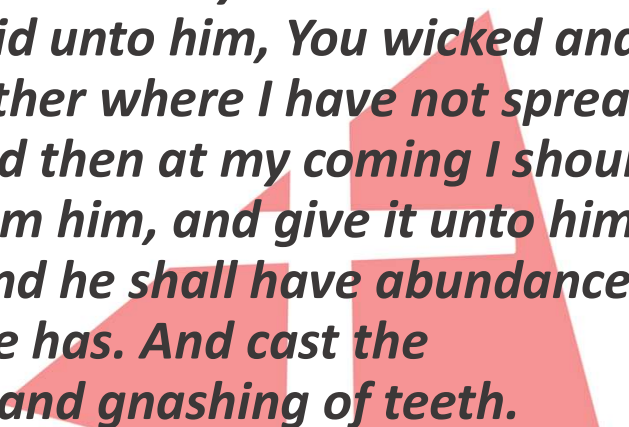
The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his own ability; and immediately took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made five other talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came, and settled accounts with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord, you delivered unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your lord.



The Parable of the Talents

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your lord. Then he who had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not spread: And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth: lo, there you have what is yours. His lord answered and said unto him, You wicked and slothful servant, you knew that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not spread: You ought therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received my own with interest. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him who has ten talents. For unto everyone that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



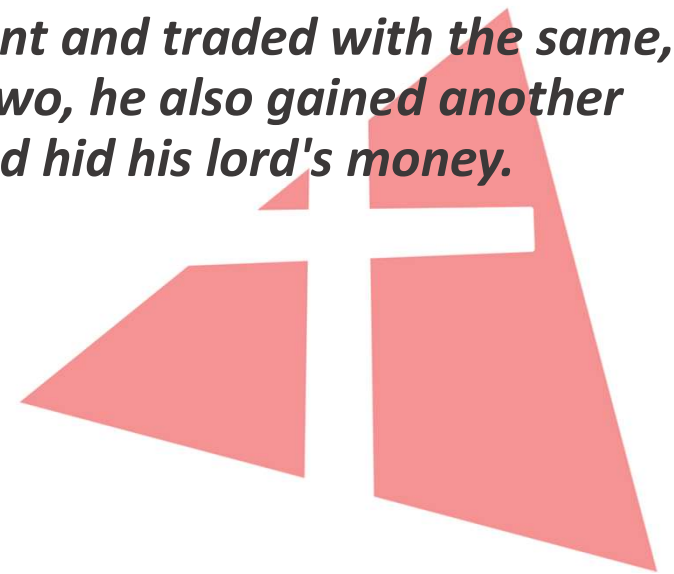
The Master

Matthew 25:14-15 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his own ability; and immediately took his journey.



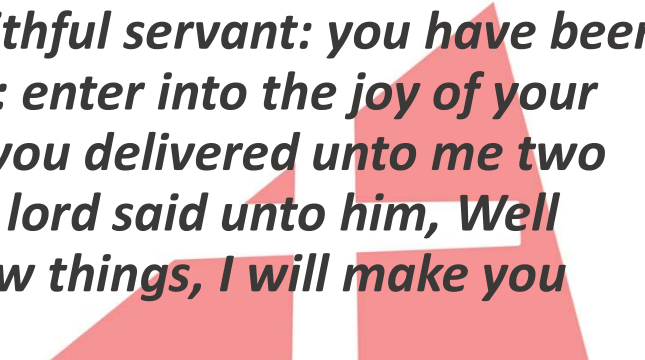
The Servants

Matthew 25:16-18 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made five other talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money.



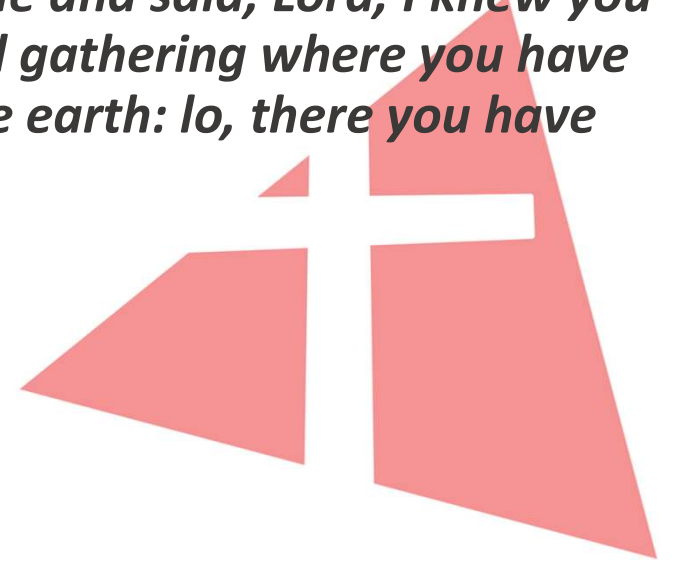
The first two servants

Matthew 25:19-23 After a long time the lord of those servants came, and settled accounts with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, Lord, you delivered unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your lord.



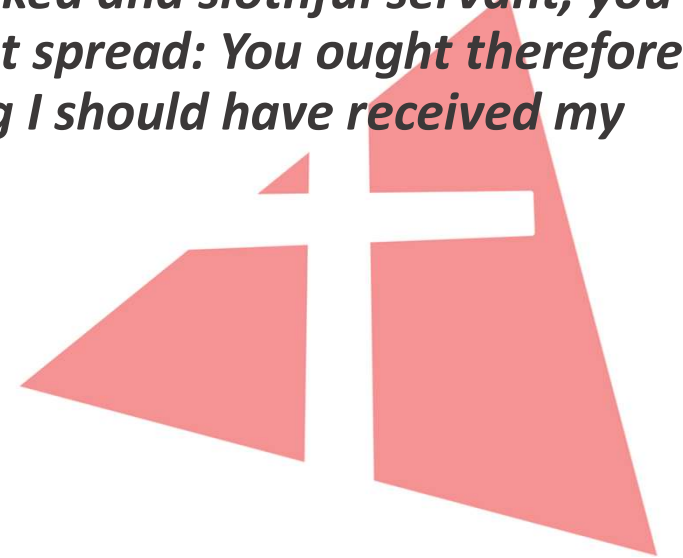
The third servant

Matthew 25:24-25 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not spread: And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the earth: lo, there you have what is yours.



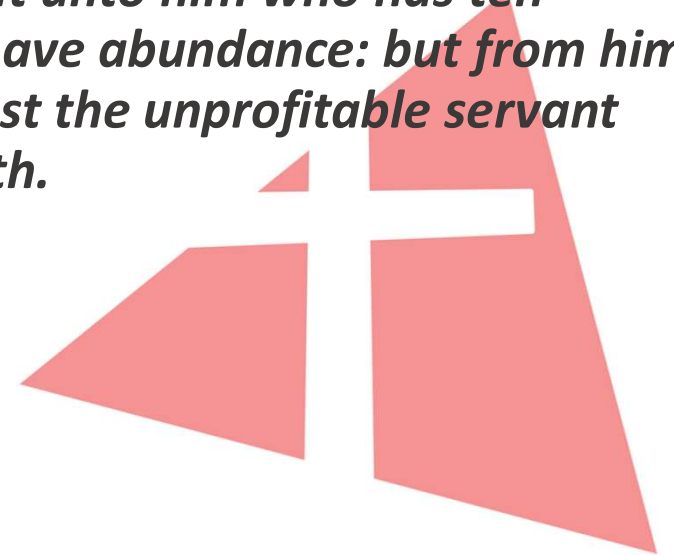
The response to the 3rd servant

Matthew 25:26-27 His lord answered and said unto him, You wicked and slothful servant, you knew that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not spread: You ought therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received my own with interest.



The Master's Judgement

Matthew 25:28-30 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him who has ten talents. For unto everyone that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



Application

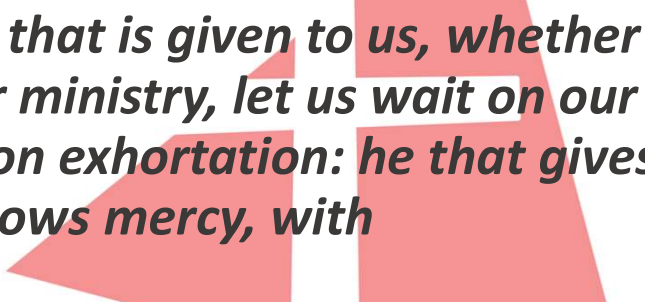
- **God has given gifts to all of us**
- **Not using the gifts God has given us is an offense to Him**



Application

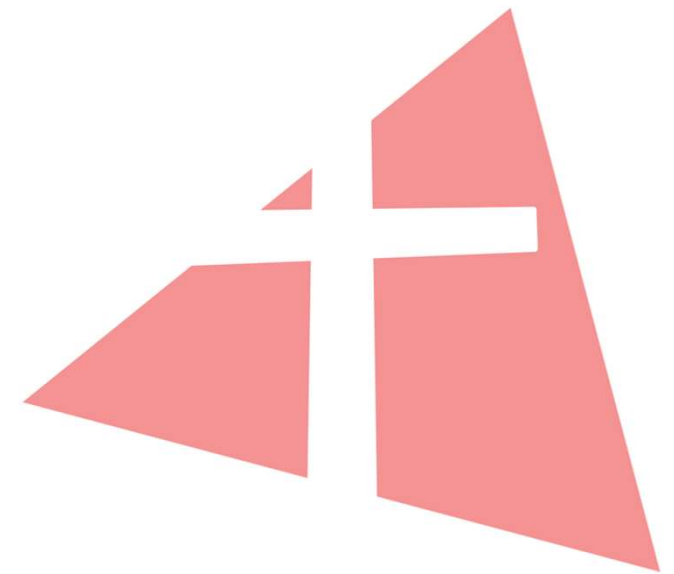
- God doesn't want us to hide our gifts
- God wants us to use our gifts
 - He is not afraid of us making mistakes

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teaches, on teaching; Or he that exhorts, on exhortation: he that gives, let him do it in simplicity; he that rules, with diligence; he that shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent red triangles and polygons of various sizes and orientations, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Possible Signs

- I am afraid
- I don't want to mess things up
- I don't want other people to
 - Laugh at me
 - Feel offended
 - Turn against me
 - ...
- I don't have time/I'll do it later
- ...



In Conclusion

- **What gifts has God given me?**
- **How does He want me to use the gifts He has given me**
 - at this point in time?
 - here at Aletheia?

