

## 1 Corinthians 12 (11-25-12)

## FAKING NON-ABILITY

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:14** For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

**Matthew 25:15** And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and **to another one; to every man according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

**Matthew 25:18** But he that had received **one** went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then **he which had received the one talent** came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked **and slothful servant**, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that

hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Romans 12:5** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

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

11 **Not slothful** in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

"...because they were not the eye, etc., that is, were not more honourable parts of the body, so no Christian...**could pretend that he was useless** because he was not more highly gifted, and did not occupy a more elevated rank."

(Barnes)

**James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves.**

**Mark 14:8** She **hath done what she could**: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

**2 Corinthians 8:3** For to their power, I bear record, yea, and **beyond their power** they were **willing** of themselves;

"...first of all he speaks unto those who would have separated themselves from those whom they envied, because they had not such excellent gifts as they."

(Geneva Notes)

"...it was altogether as unreasonable for men to disclaim the church, and their relation to it, because they had not the most eminent gifts, or were not in the most eminent places and offices, as for the foot to say, it was not of the body, because it was not the hand..."

(Poole)

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** Whatsoever thy hand **findeth to do**, do it with thy might...

**Psalms 84:10** For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. **I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

"The lowest station in connection with the Lord's house is better than the highest position among the godless...God's worst is better than the devil's best."

(Spurgeon)

**Luke 22:27**...I am among you as he that serveth.

**Malachi 1:10** Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

**Malachi 1:13** Ye said also, Behold, **what a weariness** is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts...

**Haggai 1:9** Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and **ye run every man unto his own house.**

**Jude 1:19** These be they who **separate themselves**, sensual, having not the Spirit.

**Proverbs 26:15** The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; **it grieveth him** to bring it again to his mouth.

"Let none hear you idly saying, 'There is nothing I can do.' God has bestowed upon you some sort of a gift which you can profitably employ in His service and for His glory, and it is a shameful return for His love to do nothing, to be guilty of **slothful disparagement**, and fail of stewardship, because you do not have a brilliant color that is conspicuous and attracts the attention of all. Use the color you have!...Take your portion of God's many-hued grace and magnify it among yourselves."

(J. Ross Stevenson, Pastor Of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1800s)

**1 Peter 4:10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

"There are those who make fools of themselves in the delusion that they possess some talent...Many a one has made a total failure of his life by imagining he possessed a special gift which had never been vouchsafed to him...We are not required to employ talents which we do not possess; but we ought to make sure that we are using what God has imparted to us, in the best way and for the noblest purposes, avoiding on the one hand a self-confident conceit, which claims gifts where there are none, and on the other **a sham modesty which tries to make it appear, when some service is demanded, that the needful qualifications are lacking.**"

(J. Ross Stevenson, 1800s)