

## Getting Stuck In With.... my GIFTS – Romans 12:1-8, Matt 25:14-30

Major strategic error – last week you may recall the BGT theme (**SLIDE**).  
Talked about different images of Jesus and how can be misleading (**SLIDE**).

Sat down this week to plan – what's the gospel reading? Parable of talents.  
Used my BGT idea already! (**SLIDE** Britain's got talents)

New idea – you never know may squeeze the odd mention in.

Thinking about this (**SLIDE** gifts) this morning...

**GAME:** 15 packs of sweets, 3 questions: (**SLIDE** per question)

- How many roundabouts in MK? A 100 B 200 C 300
- How many concrete cows are there in the centre of MK? A 6 B 8 C 10
- How old is the oldest part of this church building? A 500 B 700 C 900

Make most of what you've got – key pt (**SLIDE**) – USE WHAT YOU HAVE

Two passages all about this:

FIRST A FAMOUS STORY – retell briefly

Excuses: **SLIDE** I'm not as good as.... BUT God gives differently to each person v15 – not about others, about you (**SLIDE** photo of stones/lighthouse - perspective)

**SLIDE** I haven't got time.... BUT master was away a long time (v19)

**SLIDE** I'm afraid of criticism... BUT who does master criticise – people who don't use their gifts, not people who do

**SLIDE** It's my gift, anyway! – takes us to other passage – actually it isn't!

- **SLIDE** Gift – given to you v3 – didn't earn it – e.g. I'm not musical, can hold a tune through practice, but still not musical (love to lead a band at church BUT...). But I am good at other things – e.g. logical mind can make sense of a passage.

- **SLIDE** Belongs to everyone else v5 – no right to hold onto it

Lots of gifts – obvious ones like music or speaking. But look at list in v6-8. Lots of other types of gifts – common theme is that are for others. Serving, giving, encouraging, showing mercy. We can all do all of these, but some people have a special capacity to do it. And Paul says – WE NEED YOU (**SLIDE**)

I have a dream – everyone here using gifts, both in everyday life and here at church. So many things we could do if more people offered their gift. Might look like small group of gifted people doing everything 0 but if asked most of them, they'd love the help. Some would love to hand over what they're doing so they could do something else. And loads of other things we could do if had the right gifts to do it.

So this is my open invitation. If you've got a gift which you'd like to use at church talk to me, or Pat and Sylvia, or Carolyn. There'll be a way we can use it. Think outside the box – (**SLIDE** BGT acts!) – not just regular stuff, you'd be amazed what God can use. And look at these gifts in the passage – for others. Mostly not upfront, but make a huge difference to a community.

Gift slip EXPLAIN (**SLIDE**) – into box (leave at back for a few weeks)

PRAY