

“WHAT’S MINA IS YOURS, WHAT’S YOURS IS MINA”

Matthew 25: 14-30

by

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No, I didn’t make a mistake on the title, and it is not a play on bad Italian. This week’s article has to do with the many gifts and talents that are part of our community. In fact, if you multiply the number of men, women, and children just living in and around Houston, and multiply by at least two, you will have the minimal number of gifts and talents represented. Since everyone is an individual, each person has something different to offer. Not only that, but God did not put a hierarchy of gifts and talents out like the Ten Commandments. For instance, a musician isn’t at the top of the list and a cook at the bottom. All I know is that when we need our car repaired, we don’t need a skilled football player. When we go to an art show, we don’t look for a skilled carpenter. Likewise, when we go to dinner we aren’t seeking a great pianist; and, when we go to a concert, we are not waiting for the comedian to come out. Anyway, you get the idea. Everyone has a gift that we all need in some way, at some time, and all are important.

The “mina” was a particular denomination of money in Bible days. In those days, a “talent” was the largest value of currency, and a mina was the second largest. The “denarius” was worth one day’s labor. One “mina” was worth about 20 “denarii”, or 20 days labor - about a month’s income. One “talent” was worth about 6,000 “denarii” or about 300 “mina,” which is nearly six years of wages. This parable speaks to us about the value of the gifts and talents God gave to us. Even if you think God gave you only one talent, that talent is precious indeed. It is intended to be nurtured and invested by expressing it and using it. As we do, God gives us more talents.

Our families, communities, and nations cannot be successful unless we all take what God gave us and use it for the betterment of all of our lives. God gives us different talents because the world needs car mechanics, artists, cooks, and teachers, et al. Can you imagine a world with only one talent? How absurd it would look and function. Honor your talents this week, thank God for them, and joyfully put them to use. Don’t forget - *“What’s mina is yours, and what’s yours is mina.”*