

The Parable of the Talents - Part 2

Lesson # 34: (COL 325-365)

In our last lesson we studied the parable of the talents primarily from the perspective of Scripture. In this lesson we will consider what Ellen White has to say about how we should employ the various gifts which God has bequeathed to us. Let's begin by talking about the use and improvement of the mental faculties which God has given us.

Mental Faculties

1. What did Jesus mean when He said that we must love God with all our mind? "This lays upon us the _____ of developing the intellect to its _____ capacity, that with _____ the mind we may know and love our Creator." (COL 333)
2. How can a thorough education better prepare us to serve the Lord? "The uneducated man who is consecrated to God and who _____ to bless others can be, and is, used by the Lord in His service. But those who, with the same spirit of _____, have had the benefit of a thorough _____, can do a much more _____ work for Christ." (COL 333)
3. What should be the object of obtaining all the education possible? "The Lord desires us to obtain all the education possible with the _____ in view of imparting our _____ to others." (COL 334)
4. What two things must the student of Scripture pursue? "Let every student take his Bible and place himself in _____ with the great Teacher. Let the mind be trained and disciplined to _____ with the _____ problems in the search for divine truth." (COL 334)
5. What will an ordinary, self-disciplined mind be able to accomplish? "An _____ mind, well disciplined, will accomplish more and _____ work than will the most highly educated mind and the greatest _____ without self-control." (COL 335)

The Gift of Speech

1. Which gift of God has the greatest potential for blessing others? "Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater _____ than this [speech]." (COL 335)
2. Why is the gift of speech so important? "With the _____ we convince and persuade, with it we offer _____ and _____ to God, and with it we tell others of the Redeemer's _____." (COL 335)

3. What three things must we do in order to perfect the gift of speech? “We should _____ to Jesus, the perfect pattern; we should _____ for the aid of the Holy Spirit, and in His strength we should seek to _____ every organ for perfect work.” (COL 336)
4. How should we train ourselves to speak? “We should accustom ourselves to speak in pleasant _____, to use pure and _____ language, and words that are kind and _____. Sweet, kind words are as dew and gentle _____ to the soul.” (COL 336)
5. What did the apostle Paul mean when he said that we should not allow corrupt communication to proceed out of our mouths? “A corrupt communication does not mean only words that are _____. It means any expression contrary to holy principles and pure and _____ religion. It includes impure _____ and covert _____ of evil. Unless instantly resisted, these lead to _____ sin.” (COL 337)
6. What should we do when we are in the company of those who indulge in foolish talk? “When in the company of those who indulge in foolish talk, it is our _____ to change the _____ of conversation if possible. By the help of the grace of God we should quietly _____ words or introduce a subject that will _____ the conversation into a profitable channel.” (COL 337)
7. Who’s responsibility is it to teach children proper habits of speech? “It is the work of parents to _____ their children to proper habits of speech. The very best _____ for this culture is the _____ life. From the earliest years the children should be taught to speak _____ and lovingly to their parents and to one another.” (COL 337)
8. What will occur when the mind and the heart are filled with the love of God? “If the mind and heart are full of the love of God, this will be revealed in the _____. It will not be a difficult matter to _____ that which enters into our spiritual life.” (COL 338)
9. What is the highest work for which we can employ the gift of speech? _____ (COL 339)

The Gift of Influence

1. What is influence? What factors are involved in influence? “Every soul is surrounded by an _____ of its own. . . . By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in _____ is consciously or unconsciously affected. . . . Our _____, our acts, our _____, our deportment, even the expression of the _____, has an influence.” (COL 339)
2. How does Ellen White illustrate the power of influence? “Throw a _____ into the lake, and a wave is formed, and _____ and another, and as they increase, the circle

_____, until it reaches the very _____. So with our influence. Beyond our knowledge or _____ it tells upon others in blessing or in cursing.” (COL 340)

3. What carries an almost irresistible influence? “Character is _____. The silent witness of a true, _____, godly life carries an almost _____ influence.” (COL 340)
4. What danger lurks in the wrong use of influence? “To lose one’s own _____ - is a terrible thing, but to cause the loss of other souls is still more _____. That our influence should be a savor of _____ - unto death is a fearful thought, yet this is possible.” (COL 340)
5. Who will help us when we are about to misuse our influence? “When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a _____ influence, the _____ will be by our side, prompting us to a better _____, choosing our words for us and _____ our actions.” (COL 341-342)

The Gift of Time

1. To whom does our time belong? “Our time belongs to God. Every _____ is His, and we are under the most solemn _____ to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more _____ account than of our time.” (COL 342)
2. How may we redeem our time? “The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the _____ of that which remains, by being _____ with God in His great plan of redemption.” (COL 342)
3. Can donations of money ever take the place of time invested in the winning of souls? “All re to labor in the winning of souls to Christ. _____ of money _____ take the place of this.” (COL 343)
4. What should we ever keep in mind as we seek to budget our time? “Life is too solemn to be _____ in temporal and earthly matters, in a _____ of care and anxiety for the things that are but an _____ in comparison with the things of _____ interest.” (COL 343)
5. What three principles must be applied in the use of our time? “A resolute _____, persistent _____, and careful _____ of time, will enable men to acquire mental discipline which will qualify them for almost any position of influence and usefulness.” (COL 344)
6. Is there any excuse for slow, bungling work? “There is no excuse for slow bungling at work of any _____. When one is always at work and the work is never done, it is because _____ and _____ are not put into the labor.” (COL 344)

7. What must be done in order to use our time most efficiently? “Decide how _____ a time is required for a given _____, and then bend every effort toward accomplishing the work in the _____ time. The exercise of the _____ power will make the hands move deftly.” (COL 344)
8. What grave mistake are parents in danger of committing? “Parents cannot commit a greater _____ than to allow their children to have _____ to do. The children soon learn to love _____, an they grow up shiftless, useless men and women.” (COL 345)

The Gift of Health

1. How important is the conservation of physical strength? “Anything that _____ physical strength enfeebles the mind and makes it less _____ of discriminating between right and _____. We become less capable of _____ the good and have less _____ of will to do that which we know to be right.” (COL 346)
2. Why is the misuse of our physical strength a moral issue? “The misuse of our physical powers _____ the period of time in which our _____ cn be used for the glory of God.” (COL 346)
3. What commandment is broken when we shorten our lives due to wrong health habits? “Those who thus _____ their lives and unfit themselves for service by disregarding natures law’s, are guilty of _____ toward God. And they are _____ their fellow men also.” (COL 346)
4. Is transgression of physical law less serious than transgression of moral law? “Transgression of physical law is transgression of the _____ law; for God is as truly the _____ of physical laws as He is the author of the moral law.” (COL 348)
5. What is one of the most important branches of education? “The relation of the physical organism to the _____ life is one of the most important branches of education.” (COL 348)
6. What happens when we remain in willing ignorance of God’s physical laws? “He who remains in willing _____ of the laws of his physical being and who _____ them through ignorance is _____ against God.” (COL 348)
7. Why is the physical life to be preserved and developed? “The physical life is to be carefully _____ and developed that through humanity the _____ nature may be revealed in its _____.” (COL 348)

The Gifts of Strength and Money

1. Is it possible to separate secular and religious life? “Religion and _____ are not two _____ things; they are one. Bible _____ is to be interwoven with all we do or say. Divine and human agencies are to _____ in temporal as well as in spiritual achievements.” (COL 349-350)
2. What type of businessman does the world need? “There is need of businessmen who will _____ the grand principles of truth into all their _____. And their talents should be perfected by most thorough _____ and _____.” (COL 350)
3. For how much of what we earn will we be held accountable? “All we possess is the Lord’s, and we are _____ to Him for the use we make of it. In the use of every _____, it will be seen whether we love God _____ and our neighbor as ourselves.” (COL 351)
4. Why is money of such great value? “Money has great value, because it can do great _____.” (COL 351)
5. When does money become of no more value than sand? “But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the _____ of life, in blessing _____, and advancing the _____ of Christ.” (COL 351)
6. What happens when money is hoarded? “Hoarded wealth is not merely _____, it is a _____.” (COL 352)
7. What will we do when we realize that money is a talent from God? “He who realizes that his money is a talent from God will use it _____, and will feel it a _____ to save that he may give.” (COL 352)
8. Why is wasting our money a serious moral issue? “Every penny used _____ deprives the spender of a precious _____ of doing good. It is robbing God of the _____ and glory which should flow back to Him through the _____ of His entrusted talents.” (COL 352)

Developing our Talents

1. According to Ellen White, how are talents multiplied? “Talents _____ are talents multiplied.” (COL 353)
2. What attitude is illustrated by the man who buried his one talent? “If they could do some _____ thing, how gladly would they undertake it; but because they can serve only in the _____ things, they think themselves justified in doing _____.” (COL 355)
3. What would the one talent man have done if he had received five talents? “Had he received five talents, he would have _____ them as he buried the one. His misuse of the one talent showed that he _____ the gifts of heaven.” (COL 355)

4. What great lesson is taught by the man who buried his talent? “There are really no _____ in the Christian life.” (COL 356)
5. Which Bible characters does Ellen White use to illustrate faithfulness in the little things of life and why? _____

6. What two examples from the life of Jesus show that He considered the little things of life important? “When He raised from the dead the daughter of Jairus, He reminded her parents that she must have something to _____. When by His own mighty power He rose from the tomb, He did not disdain to _____ and put carefully in the proper place the graveclothes in which He had been laid away.” (COL 357)
7. What is the greatest qualification for any man? “The greatest qualification for any man is to obey _____ the _____ of the Lord.” (COL 359)
8. What does it mean to enter into the joy of the Lord? “They will enter into the joy of the Lord as they see in His kingdom those who have been _____ through their instrumentality.” (COL 361)
9. What is it that wins the approval of God? “It is the _____, the _____ to God, the loving _____ that wins the divine approval.” (COL 361)
10. What fits us for participation in God’s service in heaven? “And they are privileged to participate in His work there, because they have gained a _____ for it for it by participation in His work here.” (COL 361)
11. What view do many people have of God and why are they wrong? “There are many who in their hearts charge God with being a _____ master because He claims their possessions and their service. But we can bring to God _____ that is not already His.” (COL 362)
12. Why did God seem to agree with the remark of the lazy servant? “The master does not _____ the charge of the wicked servant, unjust as it is; but taking him on his own _____ he shows that his conduct is without excuse.” (COL 362)
13. Does God expect more from us than He gave us in the first place? “Our heavenly Father requires no _____ nor less than He has given us the _____ to do. He lay upon His servants no burdens that they are not able to _____.” (COL 362)
14. What will happen on judgment day with those who have neglected to work for Christ? “In the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have _____ along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of _____, pleasing themselves, will be placed

by the judge of all the earth with those who did _____. They receive the same condemnation.” (COL 365)