

## **STRETCH YOUR DREAM**

*Matthew 25: 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.*

*17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

*22 "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 "His lord said to 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.'*

*24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

*27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*

As we wind down on our series called stretch your limits, this morning I want to talk to you on a subject matter **“STRETCH YOUR DREAMS”**

We have read and have seen people achieving so much by pursuing their dreams. Whenever someone connects with his or her dream, they are literally unstoppable – they will go wild.

When you look at the issue of dreams, it is as if there are some people who are more special than others. As a result we tend to hero worship those people.

# STRETCH YOUR DREAM

I believe God is calling you to start pursuing your own dreams – you can be special in your own way.

The big question we all have is this, why does it seem easy for others to live out their dreams whilst it is difficult for others to do the same.

We have read from Matthew, the story of the talents – this is a picture of how the kingdom of God functions and we will use it to find ways of stretching our dreams.

A parable is an earthly story that has a heavenly meaning – it has a huge significance to things of the spirit.

*Matthew 25: 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.*

There are four characters in this parable: 1) the rich man who decided to entrust his servants with some wealth, 2) the level 5 servant who was given 5 talents 3) the level 2 servant who was given 2 talents and 4) the level 1 servant who was given 1 talent.

## **1. Your dream represents a God given capacity**

- Do you know that there is something special about you? When we talk about dreams, the first hurdle you need to jump is to believe that there is something you have that came from God
- God created you in a unique way – the way you are, the situation you find yourself in was tailor made for your dream to flourish

*Romans 12: 4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6 In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability,*

## STRETCH YOUR DREAM

*take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

- Its only what came from God that can be stretched and multiplied.
- No one asked God what to receive – the man who got the 1 talent did not ask for that but that is what he got.
- A lot of time is wasted wishing you had what your neighbor has.
- Take note, the bible says “...each according to his ability” – realize that your ability is different from my ability.

### a) Identify and appreciate your talent

- The key to stretching your dream is in appreciating what God has put in you. Stop looking over your shoulder.
  - Don't underestimate what God gave you – all you need is the little oil – 2 Kings 4:2 “How can I help you?” asked Elisha. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.”
  - Don't underestimate the rod in your hand – Exodus 4:2  
*Exodus 4:2 Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. 3 "Throw it down on the ground," the LORD told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. 4 Then the LORD told him, "Reach out and grab its tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd's staff in his hand.*
  - Don't underestimate the little fish and bread in your basket - John 6:9 *"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"*
- There is a time in life which requires you to shut out the noise around you and have a “me time” – a time to search for that gold which God placed in you.

1) A talent is the result of genetics and/or training, while a spiritual gift is the result of the power of the Holy Spirit. 2) A talent can be possessed by anyone, Christian or non-Christian, while spiritual gifts are only possessed by Christians. 3) While both talents and spiritual gifts

## STRETCH YOUR DREAM

should be used for God's glory and to minister to others, spiritual gifts are focused on these tasks, while talents can be used entirely for non-spiritual purposes.

- When you don't value what you have, you start wanting other people's gifts
- There is nothing as difficult as trying to feet into someone else's race – the bible says “let every man run his own race...”

*Hebrew 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

- For every dream, there are terms and conditions – what demands are associated with your dream?

*2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.*

- When you understand what God gave you, you can then apply yourself and comply with all the rules of your race – in the absence of running according to the rules, one will be disqualified “run the race according to the rules lest you will be disqualified.