

# Prayer Updates

June 14 & 15, 2008



# stories

4 PARABLES OF JESUS

## Hospitalized & Surgeries

Aleeta Zapata — RCU, clavicle surgery recovery

Alicia Vierra (age 8, Ronald McDonald House, Palo Alto) — recovering from facial reconstruction surgery

Bob Gubser — RCU, edema

Cathie Stewart — extensive back surgery, at CHOMP

Destiny File — (16, Monte Vista student) — just diagnosed with leukemia, at Stanford

Ellie Tefertiller — gall bladder surgery complications

Helen Ellis — knee replacement, 6/2, at Sunnyside Manor Care rehab

James Schaller — mobility issues

Ken Kostello — lung surgery

Norma Moniodis — RCU, cancer complications

Shirley VanGilder — RCU, diagnosis unknown

**Recent hospitalizations/surgeries:** Diane Burnham, Eugene Warren, Linda Brandt

## We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update: [www.tlc.org/profiles](http://www.tlc.org/profiles)**

## Part 3: How to Maximize Your Life (Matthew 25:14-30)

### Five Principles to Help Maximize My Life

#### 1. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

Everything I have \_\_\_\_\_

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and **entrusted his property** to them.” *Matthew 25:14* (NIV)

#### 2. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

I have been given some specific \_\_\_\_\_

“To one he gave **five** talents of money, to another **two** talents, and to another **one** talent, each according to his ability.” *Matthew 25:15*

“Talent”: \_\_\_\_\_

“We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given us.” *Romans 12:6*

#### 3. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

What I \_\_\_\_\_ with what God gives is \_\_\_\_\_

“The man who had received the five talents went **at once** and put his money to work... So also, the one with the two... But the man who had received the one talent went off, **dug a hole in the ground** and hid his master’s money.” *Matthew 25:16-18*

His excuse: “**I was afraid...**” *Matthew 25:25*

\_\_\_\_\_ keeps me from using my talent (See Matthew 25:27)

#### 4. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

Do I see myself as \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ ?

“The man who received five... said, ‘Master **you entrusted me** with five talents...’” *Matthew 25:20*

“The man who received two... said, ‘Master **you entrusted me** with two talents...’” *Matthew 25:22*

“Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that **you are a hard man...**’” *Matthew 25:24a*

#### 5. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

If I use God’s gifts wisely, I will be \_\_\_\_\_

(To the first two servants) “His Master replied, ‘**Well done good and faithful servant!** You have been **faithful** with a few things — **I will put you in charge of many things**. Come and **share your Master’s happiness!**’” *Matthew 25:21 & 23*

The take-away: Just do \_\_\_\_\_; start \_\_\_\_\_ !

# Daily Meditations

*Thank God for His gifts to you! Thank Him for His plan for you! Ask God to show you today how you might invest these talents for His glory.*

## Monday

Please read Matthew 25:14-30. Write down Jesus' main point in this parable.

Which of the principles from last weekend's message do you need to develop most in your life? Why?

Think about your life recently. How are you using your talents?

*Thank God today that He has invested talents into your life! Ask Him today how you can use these talents most effectively.*

## Tuesday

Please read Matthew 25:14-30 again. Just like the servants, some people see God as someone who invests in their lives, while others see Him as an unjust Master. Why the difference?

How have you perceived God at different times in your life? When have you perceived Him as one who is investing in you? When have you seen Him as an unjust Master?

How does your perception of God affect your motivation to use the talents God has given you? How does this affect your giving?

*Thank God today for His love for you. Thank Him for His willingness to invest in your life. Pray that you'll be willing to invest what God has given you.*

## Wednesday

Please read Romans 12:4-8. What is Paul's main point in these verses?

How do the principles from last weekend's message relate to this passage?

What talents — material blessing, friends, family, abilities — has God given you? List at least ten here:

What are some ways you might "invest the talents" listed above in order to gain an increase for your Master?

## Thursday

Please read 1 Corinthians 12:4-25. Like the servant in the parable, many people feel as if they have only one, minor "talent", while everyone else has two or five wonderful gifts. When are you tempted to compare "talents"?

Why is each gift crucial, according to this passage?

What is the metaphor Paul uses to illustrate this?

*Thank God specifically for the gifts He gave you! Thank Him for designing the Church in such a unique way. Pray that you'll rejoice in what God has given you and resist the temptation to compare.*

## Friday

I sometimes wonder if the lazy servant refused to invest his single talent because he didn't feel it would make any difference — after all, the other servants received from two to five talents each! Please read Mark 12:41-44. What does Jesus say about the importance of investing even our little bit in the Lord's work?

When are you most tempted to feel like you don't have anything to offer?

Write down how you think Jesus would respond to you.

How have you seen the truth of this parable played out in your life?

*Thank God today for what you do have, and ask Him to help you stay motivated to use it for Him. Ask Him to help you leave the multiplication of your talents at His feet and trust the results to Him.*

## Saturday

*Today ask God to guide you regarding how you can invest your talents wisely. Please pray for the services this weekend and be sure you know the Bible verse for this week! This weekend will be Pastor René's final message before his sabbatical. Please pray that it will refresh him, and commit to investing in God's work at TLC in René's absence.*



Memory Verse

"His master replied, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!'" *Matthew 25:23*

continued 