

## FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

A talent is something inherent in a person-learned-but given as a blessing from the Almighty Father. In the parable, the master gave three of his servants his possessions. The first servant was given 5 talents, the second 2 talents and the third one talent, each according to his own ability. The first two servants doubled the talents entrusted to them. The third servant returned the only talent given to him without doing anything about it. The master was sorely disappointed in the third servant that he retrieved the talent that was given to him and gave it to the first servant.

As a conclusion to the story, Jesus said to the people who were listening to Him, ***“For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*** (Mt 25:29)

Similarly, not everyone in community is given the same talents. Some will have more and others will have less. However, what matters is how we make use of our talents to grow in spiritual maturity, to life in Christ. There are many ministries where our talents can be used for the sake of the Gospel. If we have the gift to teach, there is the Teaching Ministry, tasked with discipleship formation. If we have the gift to write or publish, there is the Word

Ministry, tasked with the proclamation of God's Word. If we have the gift of good works, there are the Service and Mission Ministries, including Gawad Kalinga, tasked with servanthood to the brethren, particularly to the poor.

Regardless of where our talents are applied, the important thing to remember is who we are in Christ, to stay focused on Him and to use our gifts for His purposes. We are but His humble servants whom He has saved so that He can use us to bring others to His fold.

Lord, let us recognize the gifts You have given us. We are here to serve in Your vineyard. May we be faithful to Your word that our lives and talents may be dedicated to the mission that you have entrusted to us. Teach us to become living witnesses to Your love. Allow us to share our life with You to every person we meet. May our ears hear and heed Your words. May our mouths proclaim Your glory in our lives. May Your embrace keep us close to you, that we may not stray in the face of adversaries. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.