

Honor Your Gift: How to live a meaningful life.

[Mat 2:11 NASB] 11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

How many of us want to be failures and live meaningless lives?
One way to guarantee you are a failure and live a meaningless life is to ignore the gifts/talents that God has given to you.
Put another way, one way to guarantee you are live a successful and meaningful life is to honor the gifts/talents God has given to you.
The wise men (biblicalarchaeology.com)
 Spiritual: gold=kingship, frankincense=priestly role, myrrh=embalming
 Practical: gold=prosperity, frankincense=make sweet smell, myrrh=anointing, calling
 These men presented what they had to Jesus. Their presentation of their gifts to Jesus gave them significance in the message of Christmas. Their story is meaningful only because of the giving what they had to Jesus.
 Jesus spoke about how presenting our gifts/talents to Him gives us meaning and significance in Matthew 25:14-30.
 All three got something from the master. Talent equals about 15 to 20 years wages. Commentaries agree that the "talent" in this parable represents life resources like time, money, abilities, and authority.
 They were expected to add to the talents.
 They were judged based upon what they did with the talents.
 They were to honor the master and present the talent to him.

What does God want us to know about how our gifts/talents bring meaning to our lives?

There are at least four significant revelations about how our gifts/talents bring meaning to our lives.

God gives gifts/talents to everyone. V. 14-15

Not everyone can do what you can do.
Can everyone be a great salesperson?
God has given you time, abilities, money, authority.

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Recognize and appreciate what you have been given from God.

God wants us to hone & develop our gifts/talents. V. 16-18

Even though it from God, the gift/talent needs to be developed.

Preaching=studying

How

Focus – give attention to it

Determination – do quit it

Study/Education – add to it

God will judge/reward us based on the development and use of our gifts/talents. V. 21, 23, 26

The ones who developed got more, the one who did not develop/use got what he had taken away.

“lazy” “wicked” made excuses. The master was not having it.

At least contribute to what others are doing.

God wants us to honor Him with our gifts/talents. V. 20, 22, 26

Fear of God will help you to

Not be insecure when you see what others have.

You will focus on what God has given to you.

Not copy other people’s gift/talents. Accountant

John/Pastor John

Faith of God will help you know

God will reward you now – gold=prosper, frankincense=peaceful, sweet life, myrrh=fulfilled purpose, calling

God will reward you later – eternal life, joy, increased blessing

You can live a successful and meaningful life.

Identify and appreciate the gifts/talents in your life.

Develop and use your gifts/talents.

Honor God with your gifts/talents.

Know that God will reward you based on using your gifts for Him.

Properly stewarding your gifts/talents will result in more meaningful (successful, peaceful, and prosperous) life and future.

From this sermon:

What can you pray about? _____

What can you study more about? _____

What can you apply? _____

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