

Made For This

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

September 7th, 2025

[Sunday Service Video](#)

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Clay explores the concept that every person's life is like a bookcase filled with divine gifts - time, family, education, personality, and more. He emphasizes that while everyone's bookcase looks different, everything on it is given by God for divine purpose. Using the parable of the talents from Matthew 25, he illustrates that God cares deeply about what we do with what we've been given, not just what we possess. The servants who invested their talents understood the master's character and the urgency of his mission, while the one who buried his talent misunderstood the master's nature and failed to act out of fear and unbelief. The pastor challenges the congregation to examine how they're stewarding their time and talents for God's kingdom rather than building their own temporary kingdoms. He points out that many Christians derive joy from circumstances rather than from Christ himself, which leads to disappointment when those circumstances change. The sermon concludes with a call to action - for everyone to ask God, "With who I am and what I have, where can I serve to bring you glory?" He specifically challenges men to step into leadership roles in small groups and children's ministry, emphasizing that nothing grows faith faster than helping others grow in their faith.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the message about how we steward what you have given us, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Open our hearts to hear what you want to say to each of us personally. Help us to honestly evaluate how we're using our time, talents, and resources for your kingdom. Remove any defensiveness or pride that might prevent us from seeing areas where we need to grow. May this discussion draw us closer to you and to each other as we seek to be faithful with all you've entrusted to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker (optional)

If you could add one skill or talent to your life's "bookcase" that you don't currently have, what would it be and why?

Key Verses

Ephesians 2:8-10

Matthew 25:14-30

Psalms 90:12

John 15:9-11

Questions

1. Pastor Clay used the metaphor of a bookcase to represent our lives. What are some things on your personal bookcase that you believe God has given you to steward?
2. In the parable of the talents, what do you think was the real difference between the servants who invested their talents and the one who buried his?
3. The sermon mentioned that many of us look at what others have and think, "If only I had what they had, then I could make a difference." How have you experienced this in your own life?
4. How do you think your view of God's character affects how you steward what He's given you?
5. The most important thing to God about the bookcase of your life is not what you have, but rather what you do with what you have. How does this challenge or encourage you?
6. The sermon discussed how we often derive joy from circumstances rather than from Christ himself. Where do you find yourself seeking joy most often?
7. What's one area of your life where you feel God might be calling you to step up and invest more intentionally for His kingdom?
8. Pastor Clay challenged everyone to ask: "With who I am and what I have, where can I serve to bring you glory?" If you asked God this question right now, what do you think His answer might be?

Life Application

This week, take time to honestly inventory your "bookcase" - the time, talents, resources, and experiences God has given you. Set aside at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted time to pray and ask God, "With who I am and what I have, where can I serve to bring you glory?" Write down what comes to mind. Then, identify one concrete step you can take this week to move from being just an observer to being more engaged in God's mission. This might mean signing up for a ministry opportunity, reaching out to someone about leading a small group, or simply committing to spend less time on your phone and more time investing in eternal things. Share your commitment with someone in the group who can pray for you and hold you accountable.

Key Takeaways

- We were made to live in Christ and to carry out His plan and purposes in the world.
- God cares about the faithfulness and fruitfulness of our lives with the opportunities and abilities He's given us.
- The most important thing to God about our lives is not what we have, but what we do with what we have.
- Our view of God's character directly impacts how we steward what He's given us.
- True joy comes from Christ himself, not from our circumstances or possessions.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for entrusting each of us with unique gifts, talents, time, and experiences. Forgive us for the times we've buried what you've given us out of fear, comparison, or misunderstanding your character. Help us to see you as you truly are - compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. Give us the courage to step out in faith and invest what you've given us for your kingdom purposes. May we find our joy not in our circumstances but in you alone. And when we stand before you one day, may we hear those words we all long to hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Use us, Lord, in ways that bring you glory and advance your kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.