

Stewarding Our Gifts

Entrusted Series

A Sermon Summary by Pastor Emmanuel

Bible Texts Used: 1 Peter 4:10–11ⁱ (ESV); Romans 12:3–8ⁱⁱ; Matthew 25:14–30ⁱⁱⁱ

1. Every Believer Has Received a Gift from God

Pastor Emmanuel reminded us that every follower of Christ has received a spiritual gift from God's grace, not something earned but freely given. These gifts—whether speaking or serving—are entrusted to us to bless others and bring glory to God. Gifts are not trophies to admire but tools for ministry. He emphasized that stewardship means faithfully managing what belongs to God. Just as Peter encouraged believers facing persecution, we are called to use our gifts even when life is hard or inconvenient.

Reflection Question: What gift has God entrusted to you, and how might He be calling you to use it today?

2. Gifts Are for People, Not for Polish

The sermon challenged the tendency to compare our gifts with others or to wait for the 'perfect time' to serve. Each gift, whether seen or unseen, is valuable in God's kingdom. A small, quiet act done in love can carry more weight than a grand gesture done for attention. Pastor Emmanuel illustrated this with his own story of hesitation before stepping into ministry. Through

obedience and faithfulness, God multiplied his gifts beyond what he imagined—showing that grace grows when given away.

Reflection Question: Have you been holding back from using your gift out of fear, comparison, or busyness?

3. God Supplies the Strength to Serve

We are not disqualified by weakness—rather, weakness positions us to rely on God’s supply. When we serve in our own strength, we burn out; when we serve by the Spirit, we find joy and endurance. Gifts are meant to operate ‘by the strength that God supplies,’ so that all glory returns to Him. The sermon reminded us that we are lamps, not power plants—our light only shines when connected to the Source.

Reflection Question: Are you depending on your own strength or on God’s supply as you serve?

4. Faithful Stewardship Leads to God’s Glory

Drawing from Matthew 25, Pastor Emmanuel showed that God calls His servants not to be famous or flawless, but faithful. When we invest the gifts entrusted to us, others are blessed and Christ is glorified. The true measure of success is not popularity but fruitfulness—whether lives are touched and Jesus is magnified. We serve, not to earn God’s love, but in response to the love we already have in Christ.

Reflection Question: In what ways can your faithfulness—rather than perfection—honor God and bless others this week?

5. A Call to Action: Recognize, Receive, Activate, and Aim

The sermon closed with four practical steps: Recognize the grace patterns already in your life; Receive your gift as grace, not a trophy; Activate your gift in community; and Aim it toward people and God's glory. Pastor Emmanuel encouraged everyone to take a next step—to get involved, join Growth Track, and discover where God is calling them to serve. The body of Christ needs every part. 'You are not a spare part,' he said. 'The church needs you.'

Reflection Question: What is one step you can take this week to activate the gift God has placed in your life?

Closing Thought:

God has entrusted each of us with unique gifts to serve His kingdom. When we offer them back to Him in faith, He multiplies their impact beyond what we can imagine. Stewardship is not about ability—it's about availability. Let us each say yes to God today and use what He's placed in our hands for His glory.

ⁱ "As good servant managers of God's grace in its various forms, serve one another with the gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must speak God's words. Whoever serves must serve with the strength that God supplies, so that in every way God may be glorified through Jesus, the Messiah. Glory and power belong to him forever and ever! Amen." (1 Peter 4:10–11, ISV)

ii *“For by the grace given to me I ask every one of you not to think of yourself more highly than you should think, rather to think of yourself with sober judgment on the measure of faith that God has assigned each of you. For we have many parts in one body, but these parts do not all have the same function. In the same way, even though we are many people, we are one body in the Messiah and individual parts connected to each other. We have different gifts based on the grace that was given to us. So if your gift is prophecy, use your gift in proportion to your faith. If your gift is serving, devote yourself to serving others. If it is teaching, devote yourself to teaching others. If it is encouraging, devote yourself to encouraging others. If it is sharing, share generously. If it is leading, lead enthusiastically. If it is helping, help cheerfully.” (Romans 12:3–8, ISV)*

iii *““Similarly, it is like a man going on a trip who called his servants and turned his money over to them. To one man he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, based on their ability. Then he went on his trip. “The one who received five talents went out at once and invested them and earned five more. In the same way, the one who had two talents earned two more. But the one who received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and buried his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I’ve earned five more talents.’ His master told him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Since you have been trustworthy with a small amount, I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master’s joy!’ “The one with two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I’ve earned two more talents.’ His master told him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy servant! Since you have been trustworthy with a small amount, I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master’s joy!’ “Then the one who had received one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew that you were a hard man, harvesting where you haven’t planted and gathering where you haven’t scattered any seed. Being afraid, I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here, take what is yours!’ “His master answered him, ‘You evil and lazy servant! So you knew that I harvested where I haven’t planted and gathered where I haven’t scattered any seed? Then you should have invested my money with the bankers. When I returned, I would have received my money back with interest.’ Then the master said, ‘Take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the ten talents, because to everyone who has something, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the person who has nothing, even*

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www.tcvicksburg.com

what he has will be taken away from him. Throw this useless servant into the darkness outside! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "" (Matthew 25:14–30, ISV)