Summary

In this sermon, the speaker shares about his 24 years of missionary work, now based in Panama, where his ministry called 'Jesus to the Needy' reaches indigenous communities, drug rehabilitation centers, schools, and impoverished families through medical outreaches, children's ministry, food distribution, and evangelism. He highlights remarkable stories of transformation, including a well-known witch who gave her life to Christ, 29 men at a Teen Challenge program committing to Jesus, and hundreds of children and adults coming to faith through various outreaches. The speaker then draws from Scripture to address two core themes. First, salvation is entirely the work of God and requires only belief in Jesus, the second Adam, who came to restore what was lost through the first Adam's disobedience. Second, using the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25, he challenges believers to be faithful stewards of whatever gifts, abilities, time, and resources God has entrusted to them. He emphasizes that God is not looking for equal results but for obedience, and that the greatest reward any believer can receive is to hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You grateful for the gifts, abilities, and time You have placed in each of our hands. As we open Your Word together today, we ask that You quiet our minds and soften our hearts. Help us not to come with our own agendas, but to be truly open to what You want to speak to each of us in this group. Show us where You are calling us to greater faithfulness and obedience. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one hobby, skill, or talent you have that most people in this group might not know about?

Key Verses

- John 6:29
- 1 Corinthians 15:45
- Matthew 25:14-30
- 1 Corinthians 9:16

Questions

- The speaker said that the only 'work' required for salvation is to believe in Jesus. How does that challenge or confirm your understanding of what it means to be saved?
- He described Jesus as the 'second Adam' who came to restore what the first Adam lost. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus came to bring restoration and wholeness?
- The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 shows that the master distributed gifts 'according to ability.' How does it encourage or challenge you to know that God already knows your capacity and gives accordingly?
- The servant who buried his talent said he was afraid because he thought the master was a harsh man. In what ways can a wrong view of God's character hold us back from using what He has given us?
- The speaker mentioned that God told Him to tell this church, 'You are my beloved. Do not shy away from me, run to me.' How does knowing you are deeply loved by God affect your willingness to step out in obedience?
- The speaker shared that he set down his gift of leading worship for a season, and God asked Him, 'What are you doing with that?' Is there a gift or calling in your own life that you may have set aside? What has held you back from picking it back up?
- The speaker said that when we are obedient with what God gives us, He multiplies it and even gives us more responsibility. Can you think of a time in your own life when faithfulness in a small thing led to greater opportunity?
- The Apostle Paul said, 'Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel' (1 Corinthians 9:16, ESV). What is the area of your life where you feel that same sense of calling or urgency? How are you currently responding to it?

Life Application

This week, take some time to prayerfully identify one specific gift, ability, or resource God has placed in your hands that you have not been fully using for His glory. Write it down. Then take one concrete step toward putting it back into active use, whether that means signing up to serve, reaching out to someone you have been meaning to encourage, or simply saying, 'Yes, Lord, here I am. Use me.' Come back next week ready to share what that step was.

Key Takeaways

- Salvation is entirely the work of God and requires only one response from us: belief in Jesus Christ, the second Adam, who came to restore what was lost through the fall of the first Adam.
- Jesus, as the second Adam, succeeded where the first Adam failed. When we are united with Christ through faith, we receive the new life He provides and are made a new creation.
- The Parable of the Talents teaches that God entrusts each believer with gifts and abilities according to their own capacity, and He expects a return on that investment through faithful obedience.
- A wrong or fearful view of God's character can cause us to bury what He has given us rather than invest it. Understanding His generosity and love frees us to step out in faith.
- God sees each believer as His beloved and calls us to run toward Him, not away from Him. The greatest reward we can receive is to hear Him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the reminder that You have placed something valuable in each one of us. We confess that we do not always use what You have given us as faithfully as we could. Forgive us for the times we have buried our gifts out of fear or distraction. Today we choose to say yes to You. We ask that You give us the courage to step out in obedience, the wisdom to know how to use what You have entrusted to us, and the faith to trust that You will multiply it for Your glory. May we each one day hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' We love You, Lord, and we surrender our gifts, our time, and our lives back to You. In Jesus' name, amen.