

# The true measure of your potential

**Opening text:** Matthew 25:14-19

This is one of several 'Kingdom' parables, where Jesus explains His kingdom. There are many different applications to this passage but I would like to highlight 3 facts:

- We were all called to a kingdom assignment
- We were all given the tools for that assignment (talents)
- The assignment is given in proportion to our ability (v.15)

In this story, 2 of the people were diligent, had faith, were risk-takers and multiplied what was given to them for the benefit of the Kingdom. However, one tried to play it safe, was moved by fear (v.24) and buried what he was given. Yet, he had an assignment that was proportional to his ability – he could have done it!

In all these years of serving God, I have seen so many who do not engage their kingdom assignment. Some simply lacked diligence but many because they don't think they have what it takes and doubt their own ability. In this message I won't be able to talk about all the many angles to this story, but I want to focus on the aspect of **ability**. I want us to discover together true measure of our ability.

What is the true measure of your ability? **The Bible speaks of 3 measures of ability:**

- 1. The first measure of ability is what you are naturally capable of, in your own strength.**

There was one time when the apostle Paul was in so much trouble that he said he was "*burdened beyond measure, above strength*" (**2 Corinthians 1:8**) What "measure" of ability is that and what strength is Paul talking about? - He is referring to his natural ability as a man.

Life in general is full of challenges. It is easy at times to feel overwhelmed and underqualified to deal with what's against us. The enemy tries his best to inflict fear and attack our confidence. In the natural, we can feel burdened beyond our natural ability to cope.

That is why the apostle Paul added in **verse 9**:

*"Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,"*

The problem may be above measure but who can measure the greatness of God?

So as we saw, the first level of ability is our natural ability, what we can do, bear, cope with, in the natural.

**Acts 11:29:** *Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.*

They did what they could according to their ability.

## **2. Beyond ability**

There is an interesting passage in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 where the church of Macedonia was praised because they were generous to the point of giving beyond their ability:

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5** *Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.*

Sometimes we have “more petrol in the tank” than we know. Sometimes we will be stretched just to realise that there is more in us we didn’t know.

## **3. The ability that God supplies**

However, there is a level of ability that soars above any ability we may have in the natural. The Bible speaks about “*the ability that God supplies*”

**1 Peter 4:11** - *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

God supplies ability – extra-ordinary, supernatural and miraculous. This is maximum ability! Today I want to point your expectation in the direction of that kind of ability.

### **a) That ability means that God upgrades your potential**

You can do more with it than you could ever in the natural. All the great heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 lived in that “upgrade”.

**Hebrews 11:33-34** - *who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

That is the Bible says: “*Let the weak say, I am strong*”

Paul walked in this upgrade: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*  
(Philippians 4:13)

### **b) The ‘kingdom assignment’ God has for you, His gifts and talents, will be matched by proportional grace**

**Ephesians 4:7** - *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift*

There is a measure of grace (undeserved ability) to fulfil your calling in God. You never need to fear whether you can serve God.

**c) God is ready to resource your life with everything you need to succeed in your calling.**

**2 Peter 1:3** - *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue*

### **Conclusion**

**The true measure of your ability is not your 'natural' potential but the ability God supplies!**

**1 Timothy 1:12** - *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,*

There is an ability that God supplies, an enablement that comes from God!

**The true measure of your ability is the measure of Christ.**

**Ephesians 4:13** - *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

That is the measure available for us. His power and His ability is available to us.