

Heart over Talent

With such a title, one could think I'm criticizing or diminishing the importance of talent. That would be a foolish approach, and one I'm not interested in taking. This becomes evident throughout the Bible.

It wouldn't take long to remember:

- Jesus' Parable of the Talents ([Matt. 25:14-30](#)): 1, 2, & 5 Talents
- Paul's Guidance ([Rom. 12:3-8](#); [1 Cor 12](#); [Eph. 2:10](#); [4:11-12](#)): How The Body Works
- Peter's Encouragement ([1 Peter 4:10-11](#)): Gifts of Grace

We want to remember the blessing of talents:

- Abilities that provide for our families.
- Abilities that serve the local church.
- Abilities that offer help to our communities.
- Abilities that care for the poor.
- Abilities that create innovation in the world.
- Abilities that comfort the hurt.

It also wouldn't take long to realize talents aren't everything:

- Paul's warning to the Corinthians ([1 Cor. 13:1-3](#)): Ability Without Love

Not long ago, I was trying to imagine David out in a field with sheep. This young boy would become a mighty warrior and king. Yet, there he sits by his sheep. He may be from the tribe of Judah, but his father is no king. Nor did his father see a king in him. Had he, he would have quickly sent for him. Remember [1 Samuel 16:6-13](#)? How is it that this boy would become such a great King with no nobility and training? What experience in politics did he have? He sure doesn't sound like a seasoned politician after hearing Goliath's threats, does he? He's calling everyone out for kowtowing to the uncircumcised Philistine! And by the way, when he went against Goliath or gave his credentials to Saul before the fight, whom did he credit? Was it not God and not himself? What a wonderful young man.

And then I begin to think about other incredible men and women of the Bible. I think about their talents vs. their heart. What talent did Abraham bring to the table? What did Joseph know about running a nation? How does he end up at Pharaoh's right side? Andrew, Peter, James, and John - what did they know about preaching? They weren't Rabbis! Where was their training? Why would anyone listen to Sarah, Rehab, or Hannah? Who is Mary? What really captures your heart about Dorcas? Her heart or homemade garments?

And what makes you something special, brother, who works a regular job that no one will write home about? Or you, sister, who will never grace the pulpit? What do you bring to the table, those of you who look at other talents and wish you had what you don't? Who among us do you most admire and love? Will it not be because of their heart (though I'm sure you appreciate their talents)? Is it not their humility? Who will make great leaders in their homes, church, and community? Those with big, humble, and contrite hearts. Hearts won by Jesus. Hearts that win the world. We're rarely the most talented ones, beloved of Christ. And that's okay. He's still looking at what's inside, isn't He?