



Set aside for His work

Peter knew! Paul knew! I know Jesus gets it too. It's His church and He is dispensing gifts through you to make the church a better place. To further that thought, Jesus, through the church, is dispensing your gifts to make the world a better place. The legacy of Balaam is not a good one. Clearly, he is despised in Jewish history. Don't be a Balaam it says! Please, take the time to discuss your gifts with God. I can't stress this enough. Your prayer, listening, and communion with other Christians is paramount in understanding your gifts. It's also paramount in using your gifts. Ask God where to use them. God told Balaam plainly to ignore Balak the King. Yet, Balaam thought he could work around it. My three lessons do apply to this story. Know who it is your talking to. It's God, right? Only do what God says to do right in-front of you. Notice the Donkey tried to turn right or left by the Angel. Also notice they were on a narrow path. Ultimately it was God's path. Finally, listen to God. Do only what he tells you. Stop trying to negotiate with Jesus about what you want your gifts for and what He needs them for.

Like I have repeated over and over, your gifts are a blessing to you and the world. What are other people's gifts to you? Look at yours. What do you see? Hopefully you see your character within them. All that God has made you to like, love, have passion for, and find fascinating should be seen in your gifts. They emulate your person to the world. Trouble can be found when you wish for someone else's gifts. Desiring other people's gifts that you did not receive. Know this, if you try and use someone else's gift, it becomes "you" who dispenses them

to “you.” Those other gifts were not meant for you. They were meant for someone else on a path specifically laid out by God. Are you willing to get on your donkey and veer around the Spirit of the Lord? To tell Jesus he got it wrong? To pave your own path?

Instead, embrace who you are. Embrace your wonderful gifts. Look at them. Only three? Heavens no! The three are just the base. It’s probably 90% of who you are at the core. Yet, as we have noticed in Ephesians 4, I Corinthians 12, and 1 Chronicles 12 there are more gifts to use. Many of these are one-time events. Are you open and willing to be more than you are? I am a mailman, preacher, and computer nerd. I sometimes counsel, write, and build websites. Yet, I have three main gifts. I am a giver, exhorter, plus I scored (on the test) equal as a server/leader. It’s me in a nut shell. Yet, I have preached. I have seen visions twice. Clearly, I am more than just a few gifts.

Take your main three gifts and stick them on the mirror. Place them on the fridge. Paste them on your head if you must. Let them sink in. Pray to God and ask him how to use them. Pour your spirit out!! Ask God if he will use them. Be open and listening to Gods prompts. Your gifts will be used. If you’re willing to be set apart as a holy utensil of God, amazing things will happen. 2 Timothy 2:21 *“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.”*

The gifts others have will no longer be important to you. God will make you so busy using your gifts if you let him. Embrace yourself. Plan on being more than you think you are. We are more than just a preacher. We are more than just a teacher. The three gifts are the tip of the iceberg. When I became a Christian, I took this test fairly early in my walk with Jesus. My view of myself and those gifts looked quite different in those days. That was around twenty-two years

ago. The thing that really stuck with me then was empowerment. God empowered me to see and love who I really am. That shocked me. Since that time, I have learned to defend and insist on being used in my gifting areas. That does not mean I can't dabble in low gift score areas. Just don't live in those areas. They are not you.

Just remember above all else who gave them to you. Remember what and whom they are for. They must never be used for personal gratification or gain. Let God supply personal gratification through His direction and holy work. Peter wanted to walk on water. If he had succeeded, he might have felt that he was powerful or set aside from his fellow disciples. Instead, Jesus let him look away and sink. Did you notice that Jesus didn't encourage him to keep walking or to focus? No, he let him sink. Why? It's to let Peter turn his eyes towards the one who let him walk on water. I believe that moment rocked Peter's world. Welcome to that much bigger world. Gods' kingdom here on earth! We the body of Christ are holy vessels with holy gifts set aside to glorify your God.