

# DON'T GET BURIED

I personally believe each person is created with at least one talent, although it's likely that we possess several talents, some that we may have not yet discovered.

Two definitions of the word "talent" found in the *Free Dictionary* are "a natural endowment or ability of superior quality," and "a variable unit of weight and money used in ancient Greece, Rome, and the Middle East."

This second definition helps us understand the story Jesus told in Matthew 25:14–28 about the master who called three of his servants and gave each of them a certain number of talents. When the master returned from a journey, the first and second servant both showed him what they had gained from their investment and were duly rewarded. The third servant, having buried his talent in the ground instead of investing it, simply returned it to his master and was sternly rebuked. The talent was then taken from him and handed to one of his fellow servants.

This story shows us not to bury the talents (financial or personal) that God has given us. Yet, when reflecting on my own experiences, I came to realize that it is also possible for us to be buried by these same talents, if we are not careful.



The talents God gives each of us are meant to serve as tools to help us fulfill our calling or passion. The danger occurs when we allow ourselves to be so driven by some of these talents that virtues, such as love and humility, are buried.

When I was 15, I played percussion in a series of benefit concerts during the Christmas season. These events were organized to feed the homeless, as well as minister to them spiritually. On this particular day, the music crew had practiced for several hours in preparation for the program that evening. I had eaten little and was starving. Some delicious sandwiches were being prepared and I was looking forward to grabbing a few after the program. After all, I figured, I deserved it, being one of the "stars" of the show.

When the time came, I found that my mother had given my sandwiches to a poor lady who had not made it to the serving line in time. Though I knew my mom had done the right thing, I wasn't happy about it and I told her so. My mom replied with, "That sandwich is probably the best and the most that that poor lady has had to eat in a long time."



I immediately felt ashamed of myself. I was so focused on myself and what I felt I deserved in recognition for my hard work that I had all but forgotten about the needs of those who were less fortunate than me.

Whether you consider yourself talented or lacking in talents, you can always work to hone the true talents and virtues of the heart—such as love, humility, and service. After all, these are of much greater importance to God. And if you've been blessed with talents that are considered more “showy,” you can use them for the benefit of others and to glorify the one who blessed you with them. Don't allow your talents to bury you; use them to lift others up.

