

“The Water Supply”

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INTRODUCTION

When Jesus taught he often used parables, stories that helped his followers understand spiritual truths using parallels in real life. This week Pastor Dave told us a new parable. It was the parable of The Water Supply. It was a story about an arid land where the Blessed family had a pump with a limited supply of water that they kept secret. One day each family member began to receive gifts from their father who lived far away. When they put their gifts together they created a deep well and windmill delivering abundant water to share with everyone. If you missed it you can watch the entire sermon on our website (newlifepismo.com). Today’s study explores some of the spiritual principals taught by this parable – especially how using the gifts God has given each of us, benefits all of us and brings glory to God.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What would you say is one gift that God has given you that you can share with others?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

What are Spiritual Gifts

Q1. Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11

Spiritual gifts are either supernatural abilities that God has bestowed on individuals, or God-given natural abilities that function through the direction of the Holy Spirit. We must understand a simple principle: *If you do not walk in the Spirit, you do not have a spiritual gift.* Apart from the Spirit, whatever “gifts” we display can only be our natural talents, drawing attention to self.¹The Bible lists about 20 spiritual gifts. These gifts can be grouped together generally into 3 categories: ministry (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11), motivational/serving (Rom 12:6-8), and signs/manifestations (1 Cor 12:8-11). As you read through these passages, which gifts do you feel God might have given you? How have you seen God use that gift(s) in your life? If you are unsure, ask the members of your group if they have seen any of these gifts in your life.

Why are we given Gifts

Q2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Corinthians 12:17-18

God is infinitely wise in how he brings together members of His body and distributes His gifts to them. What do these passages explain as the purpose of our gifts? In what ways do you find that, when a member is absent, your group

functions differently? Can your group identify something that each member contributes uniquely to the whole?

How can we use our Gifts

Q3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:17-18; 2 Corinthians 8:11-14

You may be willing to start sharing your gifts, but not know how to go about it. In 1 Corinthians 12:17-18 what kind of encouragement does Paul give in how to use your gifts? The New Living Translation of 2 Corinthians 8:11-14 gives us what further insight into how we can best share our gifts? Do you find that you tend to be reluctant to share your gifts with others, or are you prone to overextending yourself as you share your gifts? What are some signs Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 8:11 and 13 that might indicate that you are “out of balance” in sharing?

What is the result of sharing our Gifts

Q4. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

God has a great purpose in bestowing gift on his children. What does Peter tell us will be the result of being good stewards of our gifts in 1 Peter 4:11? We too are blessed when we share our gifts. How would you apply the principal of generosity in 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 to sharing your gifts?

WRAP-UP

God has supplied us with His Holy Spirit and given us various gifts, some supernatural abilities, and some natural abilities that he directs us to use for His purposes. He gives us these gifts so that we can serve others, and build up the body of Christ. When we are good stewards of the gifts God entrusts to us, He is glorified, and we are blessed along with and the rest of the body of Christ.

Memory Verse

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

1 Peter 4:10 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge

Do you know the spiritual gifts God has given you? If not, ask him to show you what they are, perhaps by using a Spiritual Gifts Inventory test (whatismyspiritualgift.com). If you know your gift, find a place where you can share that gift in a small group or church ministry area.

¹ Blackaby, Henry T., 1935 –

What’s so spiritual about your gifts? / by Henry Blackaby and Mel Blackaby p.18

Q1

Romans 12:6-8 ESV - 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 in your Bible

1 Corinthians 12:28 ESV - 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

Ephesians 4:11 ESV - 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

Q2

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ESV - 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Peter 4:10 ESV - 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV - 26 What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

1 Corinthians 12:17-18 ESV - 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

Q3

Romans 12:6-8 NIV - 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in

accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 8:11-14 NLT - 11 Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have. 12 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. 13 Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. 14 Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal.

Q4

1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV - 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NLT - 10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 11 Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

Prayer requests con't _____

