***TAKE MY LIFE - PARABLE OF THE TALENTS***

The Parable of the Talents reminds us who provided everything and who is the owner of everything. Scott is going to be sharing more about this later. For now I want us to stop and think about what we have and who is in charge and what we do with what we have been given. Not just money and things we possess but everything that makes us who we are.

Who gave you life?

Who gives us each day when we wake up?

Who gave us our bodies? We have different abilities in how we use it.

Make a joyful noise, we read in God’s word. Whatever you or others think of your singing, God loves it because that’s the voice He gave you. He just wants you to use it to worship Him.

What comes out of our lips? Kind, uplifting, positive words or do they bring people down?

Who owns our money or things we treasure? Is it actually ours?

Our thinking and reasoning?

Our will, do we do things for ourselves or with others in mind?

Our heart, our love.

And all of these areas make up me, you. Take myself, and I will be, ever only all for God. The owner and provider of all we have and who we are.

What is our response?

Here I am, all of me. Not just what’s convenient or what I don’t value or need at the moment, but all of me.

Do you ever feel you don’t always get it right? If we are honest we’d all have to say there are times when we certainly don’t get this whole giving and generosity thing right. But I believe when we realise why we give and the blessings that come from it, it becomes much clearer.

How often do we remove God from the top spot and step into that space ourselves? Whether we realise it or not there are moments when we want to be in charge, see ourselves as the owners and decision makers and keep back for ourselves things that aren’t ours in the first place. That’s a significant life principle we need to sort out.

There are consequences when we choose to ignore the truth that all we have comes from God. In the parable of the talents we will find out more about that.

I have to say personally I’m grateful God has given us all we need to know to get this right, the next step is up to us and how we respond to it.

The offering song makes clear what that response must be. Take my life, it’s all for you Lord. We’ve heard a number of stories this morning of what happens when we trust God for all things. An important principal is giving God our first and best. Our time, talents and treasures. That includes giving in our tithes.

We now continue in worship by bringing our tithes or offerings to God to be used through the ministry of this corps. Open your heart and Allow God to speak to you as you worship Him.

**PRAYER**

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**TAKE MY LIFE**

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my king.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold not a might would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as you choose.

: Chorus:

Here am I, all of me.

Take my life, it's all for thee.

Take my will and make it Thine it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord I pour at your feet its treasure store

Take myself and I will be ever, only all for thee,

Take myself and I will be ever, only all for thee.

Here am I, All of me.

Take my life, It's all for thee.

x3

Here am I, All of me.

Take my life, It's all for thee.

**Matthew‬**

““Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”