

#512 08/17/09 The Duty of Giftedness

There is a heavy responsibility that comes with giftedness. Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48b.

As a counselor, one of the greatest challenges that faced me was a child who did not use his gifts. I saw gifted students drop out of college or dawdle away their hours in school. Intellectually gifted girls became teen parents and abandoned dreams. And saddest of all were the very gifted and talented teens who got involved with gangs, illegal substances and illegal activities. I saw futures wasted.

As parents, we must teach our child at a very early age the call of Christ to use his gifts. When Jesus spoke the words above about much being expected of those who have been given much, he was speaking in the context of a parable about being prepared when the master shows up unexpectedly. That means that we need to teach our child to do his best even when no one is watching.

To drive home this point with your child, have him memorize Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." As you discuss this verse with your child, ask him, "If you knew that Jesus were coming to visit you, how would you like your room to look?" Then explain to him, "'As working for the Lord' means that we do our everyday jobs just as if we were doing them for Jesus, not for a parent or a teacher or a boss. That should always be the way you do any job."

Apply this example to areas other than household chores. Encourage him to use his gifts of intelligence, musical ability, leadership or any other abilities just as if he were expecting Jesus to check his work.

Next week, I will write about teaching your child how he can serve God in his work now and in his career.