TO ANOTHER ONE.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Preaches on the Subject, Duty of the One With a Single Talent.

Try to Make an Accurate Estimate of Yourself --The Value of Sympathy.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—This is a discourse by Dr. Talmage for those given to depreciate themselves and who have an idea that their best attempts amount to little or nothing; text, Matthew xxv, 15, "To another one."

Expel first from this parable of the talents the word "usury." It ought to have been translated "interest." "Usury" is finding a man in a tight place and compelling him to pay an unreasonable sum to get out. "Interest" is a righteous payment for the use of money. When the capitalist of this parable went off home, he gave to his stewards certain sums of money, wishing to have them profitably invested. Change also your idea as to the value of one talent. You remember the capitalist gave to one of his men for business purposes five talents, to another two, to another one. What a small amount to last, you think, and how could he be expected to do anything with only one talent? I have to tell you that one talent was about $7200, so that when my text says, "To another one," it implies that those who have the least have much.

We bother ourselves a great deal about those who are highly gifted or have large financial resources or exalted official position or wide reaching opportunity. We are anxious that their wealth, their eloquence, their wit, be employed on the right side. One of them makes a mistake, and we say, "What an awful disaster." When one of them devotes all his great ability to useful purposes, we celebrate it, we enlarge upon it, we speak of it as something for gratitude to God. Meanwhile we give no time at all to consider what people are doing with their one talent, not realizing that ten people of one talent each are quite as important as one man with ten talents. In the one case the advantage or opportunity is concentrated in a single personality, while in another it is divided among ten individuals. Now, what we want to do in this sermon is to waken people of only one talent to appreciation of their duty. Only a few people have five talents or ten talents, while millions have one. My short text is like a galvanic shock, "To another one."

The most difficult thing in the world is to make an accurate estimate of ourselves. Our friends value us too high, our enemies too low. To find out what we are worth morally and mentally is almost impossible. We are apt to measure ourselves by those around us, but this is not fair, as they may be very brilliant or very dull, very good or very bad. Indeed there are no human scales that can tell our exact moral and mental weight, nor is there a standard by which we can measure our exact intellectual height, so the hardest thing to do is to calculate our real stature or heft. But it will be no evidence of egotism in any of us if we say that we have at least one talent. What is it and, finding what it is, what use shall we make of it? The most of the people, finding that they have only one talent, do as the man spoken of in the parable, they hide it. But if all of the people who have one talent brought it out for use before this century is half past and correspondents begin to write at the head of their letters 1950, the earth would be one of the outskirts of heaven. I ask you again, What is your one talent?

Is it a cheerful look? Carry that look wherever you go. It must come from a cheerful heart. It is not that inane smile which we sometimes see which is an irritation. In other words, it must be a light within us so bright that it illumines eye, cheek, nostril and mouth. Let ten men who are accustomed to walking a certain street every day resolve upon a cheerful countenance as a result of a cheerful heart, and the influence of such a facial irradiation would be felt not only in that street, but throughout the town. Cheerfulness is catching. But a cheerful look is exceptional. Examine the first twenty faces that you meet going through Pennsylvania avenue or Chestnut street or Broadway or State street or La Salle street or Euclid avenue, and nineteen out of the twenty faces have either an anxious or a vacant look. Here is a missionary work for those who have trouble. Arm yourself with gospel comfort. Let the God who comforted Mary and Martha at the loss of their brother, the God who soothed Abraham at the loss of Sarah and the God of David, who consoled his bereft spirit at the loss of his boy by saying, "I shall go to him;" the God who filled St. John with doxology when an exile on barren Patmos and the God who has given happiness to thousands of the bankrupted and persecuted, filling them with heavenly riches which were more than the earthly advantages that are wiped out—let that God help them. If He takes full possession of your nature, then you will go down the street a benediction to all who see you, and those who are in the tough places of life and are run upon and belied and had their homes destroyed, will say: "If that man can be happy, I can be happy. He has been through troubles as big as mine, and he goes down the street with a face in every lineament of which there are joy and peace and heaven. What am I groaning about? From the same place that man got his cheerfulness I can get mine. 'Why are thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance and my God.'"

Again, is your talent that of wit or humor? Use it for God. Much of the world's wit is damaging. Most of satire has a sting in it. Much of caricature is vitriolic. In order to say smart things how many will sacrifice the feelings of others! The sword they carry is keen, and it is employed to thrust and lacerate. But few men in all the world and in all the churches realize that if wit is bestowed it is given them for useful, for improving, for healthful purposes. If we all had more of it and knew how to use it aright, how much it would improve our Christian conversation and prayer meeting talk and sermon! Robert South and Rowland Hill and Jeremy Taylor and Dean Swift and Lorenzo Dow and George Whitefield used their wit and their humor to gather great audiences and then lead them into the kingdom of God. Frivolity is repulsive in religious discussion, but I like the humor of Job when he said to his insolent critics, "No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you," and I like the humor of the prophet Elijah, who told the Baalites to pray louder, as their god was out hunting or on an excursion or in such loud conversation that he could not hear them. I like the sarcasm of Christ when He told the self-righteous Pharisees that they were so good they needed no help. "The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," or when in mirthful hyperbole He arraigns the hypocritical teachers of His day who were so particular about little things and careless about big things, saying, "Ye blind guides that strain at a gnat and swallow a camel," and the Bible is all ablaze with epigram, words surprisingly put and phraseology that must have made the audiences of Paul and Christ nudge each other and exchange glances and smile and then appropriate the tremendous truths of the gospel. There are some evils you can laugh down easier than you can preach down. The question is always being asked, Why do not more people go to church, prayer meeting and other religious meetings? I will tell you. We of the pulpit and the pew are so dull they cannot stand it. But when we ask why people do not go to church we ask a misleading question. More people go now to church than ever in the world's history, and the reason is in all our denominations there is a new race of ministers stepping into the pulpits which are not the apostles of humdrum. Sure enough, we want in the Lord's army the heavy artillery, but we want also more men who, like Burns, a farmer at Gettysburg, took a musket and went out on his own account to do a little shooting different from the other soldiers. The church of God is dying of the proprieties.

Is your talent that of persuasion? Make good use of it. We all have it to some extent, yet none of us think of it as a talent. But it is the mightiest of talents. Do you know that this one talent will fetch the world back to God? Do you know it is the mightiest talent of the high heavens? Do you know that it is the one talent chiefly employed by all the angels of God when they descend to our world—the talent of persuasion?

Do you realize that the rough lumber lifted into a cross on the hill back of Jerusalem was in persuasion as well as sacrifice? That is the only, absolutely the only, persuasion that will ever induce the human race to stop its march toward the city of destruction and wheel around and start for the city of light. Now may the Lord this moment show each one of us that to a greater or less extent we have one talent of persuasion and impel us to the right use of it.

You say you cannot preach a sermon, but cannot you persuade some one to go and hear a sermon? You say you cannot sing, but cannot you persuade some one to go and hear the choir chant on Christmas or Easter morning? Send a bunch of flowers to that invalid in the hospital, with a message about the land where the inhabitants never say, "I am sick."

There is a child of the street. Invite him into the mission school. There is a man who has lost his fortune in speculation. Instead of jeering at his fall go and tell him of riches that never take wings and fly away. Buckle on that one talent of persuasion, O man, O woman, and you will do a work that heaven will celebrate 10,000 years.

Among the 114,000 words of Noah Webster's vocabulary and the thousands of words since then added to our English vocabulary there is one outmastering word the power of which cannot be estimated, and it reaches so far up and so far down, and that is the word "come." It has drawn more people away from the wrong and toward the right than any word I now think of. It has at times crowded all the twelve gates of heaven with fresh arrivals. It will yet rob the path of death of the last pedestrians. It will yet chime so loudly and gladly that all the tolling bells of sorrow will be drowned with the music. It is piled up in the Bible's climax and peroration, "And the spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come." Have it on the point of your pen, have it on the tip of your tongue. Monosyllables are mightier than polysyllables, and that word "come" is the mightiest of monosyllables. Shakespeare says of one of his characters, "She speaks poniards, and every word stabs." We may say of others, they speak words which are of balm and music, are light and life. Master one of those words, harness one of those words, project one of those words, prove the full plentitude and power of one of those words.

David Garrick, the dramatist, said he would give 100 guineas if he could say "oh" as George Whitefield said it. What might we not give if only we could say "come" as Jesus said it? Some one has said that syllables govern the world, and I think that one syllable might save the world. But I cannot particularize. Whatever be your one talent, cultivate it.

Once fully realize that you have something with which to enhance heaven and take hold of the eternities, and it will add a new bank of keys to the music of your soul. You are ordained to some kind of work by the laying on of the hands of the Lord God Almighty.

If you cannot do anything else, go around and feel sorry for somebody. When some one asked, "What is the secret of William Wilberforce's power?" the answer was, "His power of sympathy." And there are 10,000,000 people who have the same qualification if they only knew it.

Sympathy! If you cannot restore the child to that bereft parent or the fortune to that bankrupt financier or health to that confirmed invalid or an honorable name to that wrecked character, you can at least feel sorry for the misfortune or the bereavement or the suffering.

Sympathy! If you have not the means to do anything else, go and sit down and cry with them. That is the way Christ did when He went out to the desolated home in Bethany and the sisters told their sad story. He cried with them. Oh, cultivate that one talent of sympathy!

After the resurrection day and all heaven is made up, resurrected bodies joined to ransomed souls, and the gates which were so long open are shut, there may be some day when all the redeemed may pass in review before the great white throne. If so, I think the hosts passing before the King will move in different divisions. With the first division will pass the mighty ones of earth who were as good and useful as they were great. In this division will pass before the throne all the Martin Luthers, the John Knoxes, the Wesleys, the Richard Cecils, the Miltons, the Chrysostoms, the Herschells, the Lenoxes, the George Peabodys, the Abbott Lawrences and all the consecrated Christian men and women who were great in literature, in law, in medicine, in philosophy, in commerce. Their genius never spoiled them. They were as humble as they were gifted or opulent. They were great on earth, and now they are great in heaven. Their surpassing and magnificent talents were all used for the world's betterment. As they pass in review before the King on the great white throne to higher and higher rewards it makes me think of the parable of the talents. "To another ten." I stand and watch the other divisions as they go by, division after division, until the largest of all the divisions comes in sight. It is a hundred to one, a thousand to one, ten thousand to one, larger than the other divisions. It is made up of men who never did anything but support their families and give whatever of their limited means they could spare for the relief of poverty and sickness and the salvation of the world, mothers who took good care of children by example and precept starting them on the road to heaven, millions of Sabbath-school teachers who sacrificed an afternoon's siesta for the listening class of young immortals, women who declined the making of homes for themselves that they might take care of father and mother in the weaknesses of old age, ministers of the gospel who on niggardly stipend preached in the backwood meeting houses, souls who for long years did nothing but suffer, yet suffered with so much cheerful patience that it became a helpful lesson to all who heard of it; those who served God faithfully all their lives and whose name never but once appeared in print, and that time in the three lines of the death column which some survivor paid for, sailors who perished in the storm while trying to get life line out to the drowning, persecuted and tried souls who endured without complaint malignity and abuse, those who had only ordinary equipment for body and ordinary endowment of intellect, yet devoted all they had to holy purposes and spiritual achievement. As I see this, the largest of all the divisions, from all lands and from all ages, pass in review before the King on the great white throne I am reminded of the wonderful parable of the talents and more especially of my text, "To another one."

His Shave.

He was one of these smooth-faced young men who chew gum because it's ladylike and smoke cigarettes because it's manly. He couldn't have stood under the mistletoe in a shirtwaist for five minutes with tempting something with a deep bass voice and whiskers to meander that way.

"Hair cut?" asked the barber, as he threw his head back on the rest.

"Naw, course not," indignantly replied the customer. "Can't you see I want a shave?"

The barber heaved a weary sigh as he lathered the face, which looked like an advertisement for somebody's complexion balm. Then he picked up a neck razor, whipped it over the strop once and scraped the lather off with the back of the instrument.

"By Jove, a shave makes a man feel better!" ejaculated the smooth-faced one, rubbing his hand gently over his skin.

"That's the fourth one o' them things to-day," growled the barber.

Servant Girls in Revolt.

(The servant girls of Baltimore, Md., have organized.)

Begorra, it's a sorra bit iv a snap,
Is bein' a servant gir-r-rul;
It's stir up an' season, an' quarrel and scrap,
An' it's nivver a lager we're findin' on tap—
Shure we've no time for operay, no time for a nap,
Begorra!
Wirra, Thursday's is out when th' missus is in—
We'd go on a dizzy whir-r-rul;
But th' thought iv returnin' is shar-r-per than sin
Where we lave off we're thinkin' we've got t' begin,
We want shorter hours, 9.30 t' tin—
Begorra!

All Alike.

"I see that of the nineteen aldermen in Stratford at Shakespeare's time, only six could write their names."

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Mark Twain Chided.

The president of the Chicago Press Club went to New York for the purpose of inducing Mark Twain to come there to deliver a lecture for the benefit of the C. P. C. Mr. Clemens was up in the mountains of New York when the Chicago man arrived. The latter patiently awaited the return of the humorist and succeeded in meeting Mr. Clemens in his study at a rather late hour. According to the Chicagoan, Mr. Clemens was not favorably inclined. Indeed, he was not in one of his happy moods.

"I can't go to Chicago; I won't go," he said in an underscored voice. The Chicago man intimated that the Press Club would be willing to pay any sum which Mr. Clements saw fit to name.

"That has nothing to do with it," Mr. Clemens replied. "I wouldn't go to Chicago for $10,000, nor anywhere else. Now, that settles it. I am going to have some rest."

At that, the voice of a young person, the Chicago man says it was a girl's voice, was heard from the top of a stairway. "Don't get excited," said the voice.

Mr. Clemens turned his face in the direction of the stairway and scowled. "You go to bed," he thundered. Then turning to the Chicagoan he said in a voice almost musical: "Perhaps I may come some other time—not now."

Then he turned his face in the direction of the stairway again and listened. There was a subdued giggle at the top. And the face of the grizzled humorist became radiant.

Awful Revenge.

Clarence—Billy, if you were disappointed in some great love or high ambition, would you get even with this bitter world by becoming a hermit?

Billy—No, sir-ee; I'd buy a cheap cornet

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