

Sermon Notes: My Place: Abilities

Things to consider this week:

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is matching your abilities with the right ministry!

Five Misconceptions about Abilities

1. MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.

This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn and develop very early in infancy. When people say, "He just seems to have a natural talent for it," it's probably true.

2. MYTH: Those skills that must be learned, are learned primarily in the classroom.

Actually some of your most basic skills were learned at home, "in the street," or somewhere outside the classroom.

3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.

Again, that is not true. You're probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of. You need some process of skill identification.

4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.

Hopefully, by then end of this series, you'll see the fallacy of this idea. Be creative.

5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities.

The truth is that many national studies have proven that average person possesses from 500 to 700 different skills.

Summarize the Sermon in one sentence:

Write at least one way you can apply this sermon to your life:

Memory Verse of the week:

"Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord and not for men."

Colossians 3:23

Getting Started

Think of a person you respect. What talents and/or abilities draw you to that person?

What is the most important talent or ability that makes someone a good parent?

What one point sticks out in your mind from last week's sermon?

Digging Deeper

From your experience, how do the desires and abilities of the different authors of Scripture play into their writing? For example: do we see differences in approaches from Paul the Pharisee, Peter the fisherman, Luke the doctor, Matthew the tax collector, etc...?

Discuss the benefits these varieties bring to the Scriptures.

Skim Exodus, Chapters 35-36. What are some examples of people with different abilities adding to the work of God?

What might God be asking you to do with your abilities to add to His work?

Read Proverbs 22:29, 1 Chronicles 28:21 and 2 Chronicles 30:22. What principles do you see here for those who practice and improve their abilities?

Read Colossians 3:23. Whatever activity we chose, how should we use it?

Give a practical example of what this looks like in your life.

Evaluating your S.H.A.P.E. - Abilities

Some questions to help you discover your abilities:

What are your strongest skills?

What skills are you currently learning or refining?

What kinds of things do other people ask for your help with?

What kinds of things do you do best in your workplace?

What kinds of things do you volunteer to do for other people?

What talent would you exhibit in a "Got Talent" show?

What kinds of things have you taught yourself by reading a book or manual?

Are technical things easy for you?

Are mechanical things easy for you?

The following is a list of 26 specialized abilities followed by a list of skills, run through the list and circle any skills you have; take note of the ability they make reference to.

Entertaining Ability: to perform, act, dance, speak, magic

Recruiting Ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interview Ability: to discover what other's are really like

Researching Ability: to read, gather information, collect data

Artistic Ability: to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings

Graphic Ability: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners

Evaluating Ability: to analyze data and draw conclusions

Planning Ability: to strategize, design and organize programs and events

Managing Ability: to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved

Counseling Ability: to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

Teaching Ability: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor

Writing Ability: to write articles, letters, books

Editing Ability: to proofread or rewrite

Promoting Ability: to advertise or promote events and activities

Repairing Ability: to fix, restore, maintain

Feeding Ability: to create meals for large or small groups

Recall Ability: to remember or recall names and faces

Mechanical Operating Ability: to operate equipment, tools, machinery

Resourceful Ability: to search out and find inexpensive material or resources needed

Counting Ability: to work with numbers, data, money

Classifying Ability: to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily

Public Relations Ability: to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy

Welcoming Ability: to convey warmth, develop rapport, make others feel comfortable

Composing Ability: to write music or lyrics

Landscaping Ability: to do gardening and work with plants

Decorating Ability: to beautify a setting for a special event