

are all unprofitable servants, ^{and have} nothing to ~~boast~~ of, but the talents were given to be used and we have a marvelous opportunity to show something for the talents that He has entrusted to us, but we must be careful *neither to despair nor to be proud,* (7 3/4) but particularly careful not to be neglectful. They say that Darwin said, toward the end of his life, when he had worked on scientific matters steadily and so industriously for many years, he said one thing he regretted was that he had not kept up his interest in poetry. He said by not developing his interest in poetry ^{at all,} he said, by not developing his interest in poetry at all, he had lost (7 3/4) ^{it completely} ~~so to speak,~~ ^{that} he could not get any enjoyment out of poetry ^{at all.} Well, how much ability he had in poetry in the beginning he had no way to know, but what he said illustrates the fact that if the Lord has given us a talent or an ability and we just neglect it, it shrivels up and dies. The Lord wants us to find out what talents we've got and make use of them and He wants us to try every sort of service to Himself, and make use of it to see if we cannot accomplish in this or that way for Him, and you will be surprised to find, ways you never dreamed of being any good in, that the Lord can use you tremendously, and if you don't succeed in this particular aspect of Christian work, there is some other aspect in which the Lord can use you, because He has given ~~you~~ gifts to all His people to be used in His service. So that neglect is the great ^{Sin} ~~thing~~ that is stressed in these parables.

Now of course it illustrates very clearly the absurdity to talk about a society in which there is no profit motive, no interest or anything like that. He condemns a man for not having put the money, used the money in a way to make more money. The Lord expects us to do that sort of thing in these days, but that of course is not the work of the Christian, though it is an illustration of the work of the Christian, ^{which} is to take his talent and use them in a way to reach people and to accomplish for Him. And so we notice that we are expected to use what He has given us and to increase it. Oh how easy it is to waste the time we're given. When you get to my age you look back and think my if I put five minutes a day on this particular thing, think what I would have accomplished. I