

One Question

by Wayne Goff

A national sporting goods store is advertising their products by asking young athletes one important question — **“Who will you be?”** Their YouTube video states: “Sport begs of you one simple question. And it asks without passion or prejudice. But it demands an answer. The whole answer. Who will you be?”

You know what? They are right. Sport mimics life. Both are made up of our daily choices, and our choices make up the results of our lives. In sport, each athlete decides to (1) be the **best** he can be, (2) be above average, or (3) be a slacker, or a quitter, or a complainer. The same choices are true in life. Jesus related this in the **Parable of the Talents** (Matt. 25). Those who developed their talents received more. Those who quit lost all that they had!

At the same time, there are different levels of talent, ability, and opportunity. Not everyone is a five-talent disciple. Some are one-talent disciples, but Jesus expects the one-talent disciple to **develop** that talent! There is no time nor room for jealousy and envy because someone else is more talented, or more disciplined, or more effective. Just do the best you can with the time, talent and opportunity God gives you — and He will be pleased.

Some disciples are **overburdened** in life. God commands, *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”* (Gal. 6:2). This burden-bearing is temporary. It may be due to a financial crisis, a health problem, or other circumstances beyond one’s control. We all go through those crises, and we need encouragement, support, and help to get through. But be careful that you do not become a **permanent case!** Galatians 6:5, **KJV** goes on to say, “For each one shall bear his own burden.” *Each of us* has a *“load”* to bear and others cannot bear it for us!

Sport **exposes** weaknesses of athletes, teams, and coaches. The “game” is a contest, a competition, to see how you have done. It will **expose** those who have less talent, or who worked less, or whose coaches are inferior. Sport is not a respecter of persons. It can be harsh, cruel, and unbending. But it is a good test. Sometimes human will overcomes all obstacles, and we are greatly inspired by it! So remember that you can do more if you have greater will power — and that can be developed too! Do not underestimate human will. The more a person **wants** to do something, the **more likely** he is to actually do it! He will find a way to do that which seems impossible. So consider the “one question.”

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