

(Matthew 25:1&13) Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ... Be on the alert then, because you do not know the day nor the hour.

(Matthew 25:14-30) For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more talents. In the same way the one who had received the two talents earned two more. But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, "Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master." Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, "Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master." Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you still have what is yours." But his master answered and said to him, "You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter seed? Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore: take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents." For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**1. We incorrectly major on this story being about what God has or has not given \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **Does this story stir you toward \_\_\_\_\_?**

(2 Corinthians 10:12) They measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they have no understanding.

- **Remember our call toward \_\_\_\_\_.**

(1 Timothy 6: 6-7) But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, either.

**2. We incorrectly major on this story being about what I have or have not done \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **Does this story stir you toward \_\_\_\_\_?**

(Psalm 127:1-2) Unless the Lord builds a house, they who build it labor in vain; Unless the Lord guards a city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is futile for you to rise up early, to stay up late, to eat the bread of painful labor;

- **Remember our call toward \_\_\_\_\_.**

(1 Peter 4:10) As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God.

**3. We are correct to major on this story being about whether I know or do not know \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **Does this story stir you toward \_\_\_\_\_?**

(1 John 4:18b) Fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

(1 John 4:18a) There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear.

- **Remember our call to \_\_\_\_\_.**

(Romans 8:14-15) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ on the grace of God — that He sought you, saved you, and calls you His own.

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ that, in Christ, you are counted among the redeemed — His sheep, His beloved, His family.

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ by yielding to the Spirit, Who produces fruit in you — not for self-glory, but to serve and strengthen the body of Christ.