#### GROWTH

- 1. Glorify God
- 2. Love Others
- 3. Walk by the Spirit

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him..."

-Deuteronomy 30:19-20

"For the LORD is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." -Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Choice #1: Faithful Obedience

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

Choice #3: Outright Rebellion

Luke 19:11-27

Choice #1: Faithful Obedience

Luke 19:11-19; 24

#### Occupy:

- \*Continually trading / in business with
- \*Residing place of a business
- \*to hold a position or job
- \*Fill one's mind or thoughts
- \*Keep busy and active
- \*Take control of a place through conquest

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

Luke 19:20-23

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

If we do not use the gifts God gives us under His direction, why should we even have them? Somebody else can make use of the gifts to the glory of God.

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

"Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

-Matthew 13:12

#### Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

"It is always so, that the gracious and faithful man obtains more grace and more means of usefulness, while the unfaithful man sinks lower and lower and grows worse and worse. We must either make progress or else lose what we have attained. There is no such thing as standing still in religion." -Charles Spurgeon

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

Ephesians 6:5-8

Choice #2: Unfaithful Disobedience

"Nothing twists and deforms the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God."

-Dr. A. W. Tozer

Choice #3: Outright Rebellion

Luke 19:14-27

- -The Faithful: obeyed because they trusted their master and wanted to please him.
- -The Unfaithful: disobeyed because he feared his master.

-The "Citizens": rebelled because they hated their king.

Choice #3: Outright Rebellion

"We are living today in the period between Luke 19:14 & Luke 19:15 when our King is absent but will return like He has promised."

"We have been given a task to occupy, and we must be faithful until He comes!"

"What will the King say to <u>US</u> when He returns?

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful"

-1 Corinthians 4:2

#### PICK UP YOUR CROSS

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and He delights in his way." -Psalm 37:23

#### PICK UP YOUR CROSS

Mark 8:31-38

This means that a person's own identity gets wrapped up in Christ to the point that his or her own reputation becomes inseparable from his or her relationship with Christ.

#### PICK UP YOUR CROSS

What cross(es) are you "dying" on that its time for you to pick up and follow Christ instead?

#### REFLECTION QUESTION

-Am I occupying until Christ returns? Are there areas of my christian walk where I have been lackadaisical? Does my identity seem more like the world's than Christ's?

#### OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

-Put your gifts: time, talents, and resources to work as you advance God's Kingdom in your homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and community.

#### OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

-Be faithful, zealous, and responsible with what God has entrusted to you, rather than being idle, until the master's return.

#### OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Stop "ACTING" like the church and BE the Church!

(It's time to get up and occupy like our King has commanded us to do.)