



**Week of December 05, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Think back over this series. What truth have you applied in your life, and how is it helping you live with contentment instead of comparison?
2. Paul said “Most ambition is driven by the desire for acceptance.” We cannot see others motives in the moment, only in hindsight. How can you know when ambition crosses the line and becomes unhealthy?
3. Read Matthew 25:14-15. In the parable, who does the man represent, and who do the servants represent? How do you think those who heard the parable reacted?
4. What is the difference between the owner's response to the first man and the second man? How might the first two servants have felt after hearing the master's reply to them?
5. Paul said, “You're not responsible for what you have but what you do with it.” How does this truth affect what you focus on? Why is it so easy for our focus to move to comparison instead of staying on God?

6. What is one specific thing you can do this week to celebrate what God has given others? What has God given you that you can invest?

### **Moving Forward**

Take inventory and make a list of what God has given you. Now mark the areas you are stewarding well and those you have buried. If there is sin to confess, confess it to God. Choose to take your view of you from the One who created you, chose you and loves you. As you settle into His acceptance, you're then free to make a difference in the way only you can uniquely make.

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ <sup>26</sup>“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup>“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup>For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’