

**Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?**

**Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).**

**If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.**

**We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.**

**Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?**

**Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.**

**James 1:1-12**

**THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**Main Thought:** The parable of the talents teaches us that God has entrusted us with resources according to our abilities and we are accountable to Him for their use.

1. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PARABLE.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ THE PARABLE.

1) The element of \_\_\_\_\_.

2) The element of \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The element of \_\_\_\_\_.

4) The element of \_\_\_\_\_.

5) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) The \_\_\_\_\_ servants

(2) The \_\_\_\_\_ servant

3. HOW WILL YOU \_\_\_\_\_ THE TEACHING OF THIS PARABLE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read Matthew 24:1-25:13. What is the immediate context in Matthew's Gospel for the Parable of the Talents? What clue(s) does that give you to understanding the parable?

2. Read Matthew 25:14-30.

1) Who are the key characters in the parable?

2) What actions take place in the parable?

3) Who do you think the man going on a journey represents? What journey is Jesus talking about? How long does this journey take?

4) Who do you think the first two servants represent?

5) Who do you think the third servant represents?

6) What is a talent? On what basis were the servants given their talents?

7) What did the first two servants do with their talents? What was their reward?

8) What did the third servant do with his talent? Why? How does he view his master? How does the master view him? What was his punishment? Why?

9) Does this parable teach that salvation is by works? If not, why not? (See Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-8; James 2:26) What part do works/deeds play in our faith and salvation?

10) What profit does Jesus expect from his followers? (See Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 5:12-14; John 12:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; Matthew 6:19-20)

3. How will you begin to apply the teaching of this parable in your life this week?