

Kingdom of Heaven week 5

Matthew 13:11, 16 (NLT, pg. 810) [Jesus] replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven...blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

The Triumphal Entry: Matthew 21:1-11

Matthew 21:6 (NLT, pg. 818) The two disciples did as Jesus commanded.

Parable of the Three Servants: Matthew 25:14-30 (pg. 823)

The servants are given different _____ “in proportion to their abilities”...

...and got very different _____ from the master.

Matthew 25:23 (NLT, pg. 823) “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

Matthew 25:26-27 (NLT, pg. 824) “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

The servants’ _____ dictated their results.

Matthew 25:24-25 (NLT, pg. 824) Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

Lessons from this Parable

Fear causes us to do _____ things.

1 John 4:18 (NLT, pg. 1033) Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

God expects a _____ on the investment He has made in us.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NLT, pg. 956) A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Lasting abundance is a _____ from God.

Matthew 25:29 (NLT, pg. 824) To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

_____ is important.

Matthew 21:9-10 (NLT, pg. 818) Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the lord! Praise God in highest heaven!” The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered.

Final Thought: “Well done my good and faithful servant” are words we long to hear from God. A proper perspective and _____ will lead us to the celebration in heaven.

Kingdom of Heaven week 5 discussion questions

Has fear ever lead you into something unwise? Explain. How has fear affected your faith journey? Explain. Does realizing that the third servant's fear was based on their perspective of God and of themselves help you in your faith journey? Why or why not?

Read 1 John 4:7-21. Count how many times John uses the word love in this passage. Why do you think John focuses on the love of God so much before bringing up fear? Explain. The overall point of this passage is not fear, what is it? How are fear and unity within the church connected? How unified is our church? In what ways can you be a source of unity for Oregon Trail? How can celebrating together (like making journey videos) be a source of unity? Will you make a journey video?

Matthew 24 and 25 is a distinct section of the gospel where Jesus focuses on the end times. Does it surprise you that this parable is found right in the middle of this section? Does it change the meaning at all seeing the context it is presented in? Why or why not? Are you actively pursuing whatever will make God tell you the words "Well done my good and faithful servant"? What, if anything, is holding you back?