

Aveleigh's Year Of The Bible
Sunday Dec. 31, 2017
BEGIN WITH THE ENDING IN MIND
Res. Psalm 121 p. 666 & Matthew 25:14-30 p.1066

Intro: A story from Chris Rappazini about three students.

The point of the parable:

1. THE MASTER RELINQUISHES

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To 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.

2. THE MASTER REWARDS

²⁰The 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.’²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things;

3. THE MASTER REBUKES

²⁴ “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. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’”

²⁶ “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? ²⁷ 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.’”

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

CONCLUSION Let us begin our new year with the end in mind.

Prayer: Eternal Judge: in your purpose our lives are lived, and by your grace our hopes are bright. Be with us in the coming year, forgiving, leading, and saving; so that we may walk without fear, in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Four For The Road Ahead,

1. What gifts have you received?
2. Have you ever received a gift that included an expectation from the giver that you were to do something with your gift? What?
3. How do you feel when you give a gift and the recipient does not appreciate your gift?
4. What could “Begin with the end in mind” mean?

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Call to Worship

LEADER: But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:

PEOPLE: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

LEADER: Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,

PEOPLE: but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9 NIV

Prayer of Confession

See Worship Book page 158 prayer of confession