I. A Generous Master.  
Matthew 25:14-18 

One talent = 15 years wages.

What amazes me is that our Father invites us to share in the work and in the joy of ministry.

II. A Coming Judgment.  
Matthew 25:19 

One day the master will come back to "settle accounts".

“For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.” Romans 12:10 & 12
God expects us to use our gifts in a way that honors him and multiplies the kingdom. There is no fear for those who do their work well.

What are the gifts you have been given? What would happen if you left them in the box? Missed opportunities, missed growth and missed joy.

There are no small parts.
- Matthew 10:40-42 “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”
- Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

III. A Final Reward.
Matthew 25:20-30

The commendation for the first two servants was the same. Both were faithful to use the gifts they had received and both would be given greater responsibility in the future.

There is a new heaven and earth coming. What we do now matters and it will enlarge our capacity for joy and service in that day.

What about the third servant?
- His master called him wicked and lazy.
- He is cast out of the kingdom, because by his words and deeds he shows that he really doesn’t know his master.
To know God is to love him.
To love him is to serve him.
To serve him is to know him.

Conclusion

It’s time to get out of the boat and take the next step with God, whatever that may be.