November 15, 2020 <u>"About Face!"</u> (Matthew 25:14-30)

We use the term "about face" to refer to someone who experiences a complete change in an <u>attitude</u> or <u>opinion</u>.

Generally, we follow the <u>**crowd**</u>.

There are two key words we have to confront if we're going to understand this story and apply it to our lives: The two words are: <u>entrusted</u> and <u>afraid</u>.

The first and second servants <u>invested</u> their master's wealth.

The third servant <u>hid</u> his master's wealth.

1.- The saddest and least productive emotion in life is <u>Fear</u>.

Fear's only fruit is <u>regret</u> and lost opportunities and increased <u>focus</u> on one's self and one's <u>security</u>.

Think of all the things in life we miss out on because we are <u>afriad</u>. We don't trust God's goodness and <u>promises</u>.

Think of all the opportunities we could harvest if we were just bold enough to base our goals and priorities on God's <u>promises</u> instead of our own <u>security</u>!

2.- Think how often the scriptures say, "Don't be <u>Afraid</u>."

Could it be that the opposite of faith is not <u>unbelief</u> but <u>fear</u>?

Fear not only makes us miserable, but it robs us in so many ways including the ability for <u>healing</u> to take place in our bodies!

3.- This story tells us that Christ is looking for people with holy <u>Boldness</u>.

What is holy boldness? --

--"The boldness to let God direct your talents and <u>energy</u> toward good works that bring Him <u>glory</u>."

God made us to <u>partner</u> with Him in ushering in the kingdom of God.

Notice the outcome of this story rests on faith in God's <u>character</u> and <u>obedience</u> to God's commands.

Both faith and <u>obedience</u> require boldness to let go of your own <u>security</u> and comfort and let God <u>use</u> you for His larger plans!

God has <u>entrusted</u> you with great wealth. (Life. Talents. Energy. Intellect. Influence.)

God can't use you for His glory if you are <u>afraid</u> of investing your life in good works for God's glory!

The Christian life is not for <u>sissies</u>.

It is for people willing to live with holy <u>**boldness**</u>, seeking to be where God wants them to be, and <u>**living**</u> as God wants them to live!

Do you see yourself in that role?

Why settle for less?