“To whom much is given, much is required.” – Luke 12:48

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Why is it important for us to stop making excuses?

• People of character take responsibility for their actions.

• People of character can be trusted.

• People of character grow from their mistakes.

We must

1. Be a person of purpose.

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank:

1. Stop fearing the unknown. Fear and Faith cannot co-exist.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,

1. Stop focusing on your weaknesses and focus on the love and faithfulness of our God. Pastor Craig has been talking to us about changing your thinking. Contrary to how it often feels we can control our thoughts.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

1. Remember the previous care and provisions of God. He has not changed.

Hebrews 13:8 Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Malachi 3:6 “For I the Lord do not change;

1. Stop blaming others. God is sovereign! He will work all things for His plans and purposes. Rest in that!

Romans 3:8 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

1. If you messed up, own it. Repent (ask forgiveness from God) if needed make restitution (to be reconciled with others)

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

In the meantime, learn to wait. Find productive things to do while you are waiting.

**Wait patiently-** James 1:4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**Wait expectantly-** James 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

**Wait steadfastly-** 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**Isaiah 40:31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?