

Talents

There is a quiet moment in every believer’s life when the question rises: *What am I doing with what God has placed in my hands?*

In **Matthew 25**, Jesus tells a story of a master preparing to leave on a long journey. He calls three of his servants and entrusts them with differing amounts of talents—“each according to his ability.” Then he goes away.

The first two servants do not waste time. They go at once and put the their talent to work. When he returns, they present him with double what they received. The master’s face lights up. (23) *“Well done, good and faithful servant,”* he says to each of them. *“You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”*

The third servant is different. Fearful of the master’s stern reputation, he digs a hole in the ground and hides the single talent. When the day of reckoning comes, he returns the original sum, unchanged. The master’s response is severe: the talent is taken from him, and he is cast into the outer darkness.

What can we learn from this parable?

1.It starts with stewardship, not ownership. The talents never belonged to the servants. Everything they managed was the master’s. In Christian understanding, abilities, opportunities, time, resources, influence, and even the message of the gospel itself are gifts entrusted by God.

2.Action and risk are required. The first two servants “went at once” and put their talent to work. The third chose the safest possible course because of fear—preservation without growth. Fear can appear responsible. The third servant did not squander the money on pleasure or lose it in reckless ventures. He simply protected it. He played it safe. And in doing so, he revealed that he did not truly know the master’s heart. He saw only severity, not generosity. He saw risk, not invitation. His fear became a burial ground for the very gift he had been given. Inactivity born of fear is judged more severely than imperfect effort.

3.Accountability is certain. The master returns and “settles accounts.” The parable assumes a future reckoning. Reward and loss are real. Those who multiply what they have been given are entrusted with greater responsibility and invited into the master’s joy. The one who produces nothing loses even what he had.

What are you doing with what God has placed in your hands? Are we like the third servant, burying our gifts under the soil of comparison, perfectionism, past failure, or quiet unbelief. We tell ourselves we are being careful, wise, realistic. Meanwhile the Master waits for us to take what He has placed in our hands and put it to work—for His glory and for the joy of others. The tragedy is not starting with little; it is finishing with nothing because of inaction.

Ben Terry



Meadows Leadership

ELDERS:

- Joey Case (409) 651-2917
- Derrell Hart (409) 769-0099
- Donnie Landrum (409) 842-3236
- Brad Mansfield (409) 781-3987
- Doug Smith (409) 767-1824
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DEACONS:

- Andy Bailey
- Auston Barnes
- Micah Bell
- Duane Browning
- Bobby Case
- Guy Crabtree
- Bradly Hailey
- David Owens
- Daryl Phelps

PULPIT MINISTER:

Rick Walker (303) 359-9160

YOUTH MINISTER:

Seth Pearman (580) 812-2550



August 16, 2026
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Schedule of Services:

Sundays:
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Class 10:45 AM
Evening Worship 5 PM

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class:
9:45 AM / Refreshments
10 AM / Bible Class

Wednesday Night Devo / Bible Class:
5:15-6:15 PM Meal
6:30 PM Service

Beaumont Nursing Homes
Service Times

Harmony @ Beaumont
(2660 Brickyard Rd., Bmt)
Sunday @ 2 pm

Avlr of Beaumont
(4195 Milam St., Beaumont)
Sunday @ 3:30 pm

Brookdale Dowlen Oaks
(2250 Dowlen Rd., Bmt)
Service / Sunday 2 pm

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On the web:

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Meadows Messenger



The Spirit-Empowered Life

The Christian life was never intended to be lived by human strength alone. God gives His Holy Spirit to those who come to Christ in obedient faith. On Pentecost, Peter commanded, *“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38). God gives the Holy Spirit *“to those who obey Him”* (Acts 5:32). The Spirit’s presence identifies us as belonging to Christ and assures us of our inheritance (Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13–14).



The Spirit who lives within us is powerful. Paul prayed that Christians would be *“strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man”* (Ephesians 3:16). He then praised God as the One *“who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us”* (Ephesians 3:20).

The Spirit’s power does not ordinarily appear through spectacular displays. It is seen as He transforms our inner person through His revealed Word. He strengthens us to resist temptation, endure suffering, put sinful practices to death, and develop the character of Christ (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:22–23). As we submit to His teaching, He produces love where there was selfishness, peace where there was anxiety, and self-control where there was bondage to sinful desires.

However, Christians can interfere with the Spirit’s work. Paul warns, *“Do not quench the Spirit”* (1 Thess. 5:19). We quench Him when we ignore His Word, resist His correction, or refuse to follow where His truth leads.

James warns that friendship with the world makes us enemies of God. God jealously desires the Spirit He has caused to dwell within us (James 4:4–5). We cannot fill our hearts with the values of the world and expect the Spirit to have unrestricted influence.

Paul also commands, *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”* (Ephesians 4:30). Bitterness, anger, slander, and malice grieve Him and hinder His transforming work (Ephesians 4:31).

The Spirit-empowered life is not passive. We must *“walk by the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:16), set our minds on spiritual things (Romans 8:5–6), and allow Christ’s Word to *“dwell richly within us”* (Colossians 3:16). God supplies the power, but we must willingly surrender to His influence. The question is not whether the Spirit is powerful. The question is: Will we yield to His power?

Rick Walker



Current Events & Activities:

The Men's Leadership meeting will be this afternoon at 3 pm in the conference room.

Singing Night will take place this afternoon at 4:30 pm. We will learn new songs from 4:30-5 pm and good old favorites from 5-6 pm.

There will be a Ladies Bible Class "Renew and Reconnect" Autumn Luncheon Kickoff on **Tuesday, August 25th at 11 am**. This luncheon will take place at the home of Paulette Austin (9645 Arkansas, Bmt). The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class will resume on **Tuesday, September 1st** with Melinda Barnett teaching a series of lessons "A Balm for the Soul." Coffee and fellowship @ 9:45 am. Class from 10-11 am. Baby sitting is provided. Looking forward to seeing you there and studying God's word with you.



Back to School Family Night
Saturday, August 22nd
2-4 pm @ Meadows
Games * Refreshments Fellowship

***** Bring lawn chairs & wear a white t-shirt for an outside activity**



"If the world is cold, make it your business to build fires."

Diaper Sprinkle for baby Obadiah Pearman

Let's shower Seth & Chloe with diapers & wipes because Obi will be here in September. There is a box set up in the kids hall-way for the gifts to go in. The box will be left up for several weeks!



YOUth Group Activities coming up.....

UPLIFT

Sunday, August 23rd @ Seth & Chloe's
(310 Smith Street, Kountze) @ 5 PM

LADS TO LEADERS KICKOFF CONGREGATION LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 6th
following morning Bible classes

Keeping Vision

About 350 years ago a ship-load of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America.

The first year they established a town site.
The next year they elected a town government.

The third year the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness.

On the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway?

Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But within a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their vision. With a vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great or too vast. Without it, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries.

H to H



Meadows Prayer List:

Members:

Weldon Dunlap / cancer, trmts
Clint Heartfield / shoulder recovery

Vicki Mansfield / recovering, from accident on E-bike

Tina Paul / rec from knee surgery

Felita Price / recovering from shoulder surgery

Keri Robin / cancer

Vicki Thomas / back issues, painful

Members Unable to Worship With Us:

Charles Baird

John Beard

Jack & Majorie Crabtree

Floyd Guillory

Darline Harrell

Marsha Hoskins

Annie Pearl Leigh

Martha Richardson

Louise Runnels

Friends & Family of Meadows Members:

Patsy Bass, Lorene Bass / health
Coleen Clark / Melinda Barnett's cousin / cancer

Dwain & Raye Dorrell / health
Mary Johnson / C. Case's Mom / health issues

Whitney Rector / rec from knee repair surgery

Linda Romero / Dot's sister inlaw / knee repl surgery @ Baptist on 8/19

Betty Scott / health

Allison Stephenson / fr of K & W Fowler, rec from cancer surgery

Paula Webb / wife of Rowland, rec from hip replacement surgery

Don Welch / brother of Cathy H, rec from broken knee cap surgery

Promotion Sunday, September 6th

Below are the classrooms that your child (between the ages of Kindergarten and 8th Grade) should promote on Sunday, September 6th. They are to move up to the class that they are currently in with the 2026-27 school year.

Youth Worship Sunday Morning: For kids 4 years—5th Grade. Kids leave out of main worship at the beginning of the song before the sermon. Start out in Room # 106 (Singing Room) for some kids songs. Lesson, crafts, and worksheets will follow in the Youth Worship Room.

Bible Class Hour Sunday Morning:

4 Yrs—Kindergarten	Rm # 103	Megan Milich, Fawnn & Tina Paul, Theresa Wilson
1st—2nd Grades	Rm # 104	Carl & Debbie Sundgren
3rd—5th Grades	Rm # 105	Melinda Barnett, Rinda Phelps, Rolan Phelps
6th—8th Grades	Rm # 106	Bradly & Alicia Hailey
9th—12th Grades	Rm # 112	Seth & Chloe Pearman

August Anniversaries:

8/16 James & Medley Coatney
8/17 Tony & Sheila Fitzgerald
8/17 David & Connie Owens



This Week's Birthdays:

8/17 Erin Fife
8/18 Steve Wilson
8/22 Evelyn Anthony



Attendance & Contribution

2026 Weekly Budget: \$13,100.00

Weekly Averaged Collection

for July: \$10,480.37

Collection 8/9: \$14,973.15

Sunday AM (8/9) ... 157

Bible Class (8/9) ... 128

Sunday PM (8/9) ... 49

Wednesday (8/12) ... 118

Building Fund: \$34,746.60

Disaster Relief: \$2,691.53

"Better to have loved and lost a short person than never to have loved a tall."

If you want your children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others.

"MIDDLE AGE BEGINS WITH THE FIRST MORTGAGE AND ENDS WHEN YOU DROP DEAD."