

# Title:

“Stop Counting”

# Big Idea:

Comparison tempts us to bury what God gave us; a secure identity in Christ gives us courage to be faithful with our own assignment.

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## INTRO

Mother’s Day can stir up a lot.

For some, it’s joy.

For some, it’s grief.

For a lot of people, it can be a season, a day where we’re tempted into comparison.

Open to Matthew 25.

Comparison sounds like:

- “She makes motherhood look easy.”
- “Her kids are thriving.”
- “Her house is cleaner.”
- “She’s more patient and spiritual.”
- He’s got more money, a better job, a nicer car, more hair on his head!
- They’ve got a great marriage, they have kids, they’re healthy.

Examples of moms in Scripture who struggled

- Eve
- Sarah and Hagar
- Rebekah
- Mary

And comparison doesn’t stop with moms:

- careers
- marriages
- bodies
- gifts
- platforms
- Opportunities

In Matthew 25, Jesus shows us the danger of focusing on what someone else was given.

## **Matthew 25:14-28**

### **Parable of the Three Servants**

<sup>14</sup> “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. <sup>15</sup> He gave five bags of silver<sup>[a]</sup> to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

<sup>16</sup> “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. <sup>17</sup> The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. <sup>18</sup> But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. <sup>20</sup> The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>22</sup> “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

<sup>23</sup> “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate.

<sup>25</sup> I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

<sup>26</sup> “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, <sup>27</sup> why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

<sup>28</sup> “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. <sup>29</sup> To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’

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# **1. God Determines Our Calling**

## **Matthew 25:14–15**

“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one...”

## **Define:**

The master intentionally gave different amounts.

He matched the responsibility with the capability.

Different does not mean less.

Different does not mean forgotten.

Different does not mean unloved.

For moms:

Different children.

Different capacities.

Different giftings.

Different resources.

Different seasons.

## **Illustrate:**

Some moms are raising babies.

Some are raising teenagers.

Some are raising prodigals.

Some are grieving children they never held.

Some are mothering spiritually.

Everyone's assignment looks different.

## **Argue:**

God is wise enough to match the grace to the assignment. Your kid needs you - not someone else's mother.

## **Romans 12:6**

<sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

## **1 Corinthians 12:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. <sup>19</sup> If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

## **Apply:**

Don't see "different" as "less than," see it as unique, as specific, as needed in the boy as a whole.

## God Determines Our Calling

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## 2. Comparison Creates Fear

### Matthew 25:24–25

"I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent..."

### Define:

The one-talent servant became paralyzed.

Comparison often leads to:

Fear

Shame

Insecurity

Passivity

Most often: a need to control.

Moms can start thinking:

"I'm not enough."

"I'm failing."

"I can't do what she does."

And instead of running our race, we freeze and bury our gift.

### Illustrate:

Social media has made comparison a full-time job.

We compare:

our behind-the-scenes

to everyone else's highlight reel.

### Argue:

Fear makes us hide.

### 2 Corinthians 10:12

<sup>12</sup>Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men

who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

<sup>13</sup> We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.

### **Apply:**

Comparison creates fear and fear will bury your unique gift.

### **God Determines Our Calling**

### **Comparison Creates Fear**

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## **3. Faithfulness Matters Most**

### **Matthew 25:21, 23**

“Well done, good and faithful servant...”

### **Define:**

The servant with five and the servant with two got the same reward.  
God did not reward volume.  
God rewarded faithfulness.

The world celebrates visibility and production.  
God celebrates faithfulness.

### **Illustrate:**

A faithful mom may not go viral.

She may:  
pray in secret  
wipe tears  
clean messes  
show up exhausted, but stays consistent

But heaven sees it all.

### **Argue:**

God isn't asking:  
"Why weren't you her?"

He's asking:  
"What did you do with what I gave you?"

### **1 Corinthians 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

### **Psalm 31:23**

<sup>23</sup> Love the LORD, all you his saints!  
The LORD preserves the faithful  
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

### **Apply:**

Your assignment is not to produce.  
Your assignment is not to impress.  
Your assignment is to be faithful.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Some of us are exhausted from counting everyone else's talents.

Jesus says:  
Stop looking sideways.

Your value is not in your results.  
Your identity is not in your performance.  
Your calling will not be found in comparison.

### **God Determines Our Calling**

### **Comparison Creates Fear**

### **Faithfulness Matters Most**

Be faithful with:  
your season

your children  
your influence  
your relationships  
your gifts  
your “yes”

### Luke 1:38 - Mary's Fiat

<sup>38</sup> Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.”

And one day the reward will be the same as the servants in this story who were faithful with what the master gave them to steward:

**“Well done, good and faithful servant.”**

## Potential Questions

### Opening

1. Everyone - Briefly tell us what season of life/motherhood you’re in right now, and one thing bringing you joy in this season. (1 minute each)(5 minutes total)
2. Sarah, Chelsea - Where has comparison been a struggle, and what has helped you fight it? (2 minutes each)(4 minutes total)
3. Jessalyn - Share a moment you felt like you were failing—and how Jesus met you there. (3 minutes)
4. Alexa, Chelsea - What does staying connected to Jesus look like in your season and how would you encourage other moms who feel overwhelmed to connect? (2 minutes each)(4 minutes total)
5. Bess, Sarah - What has helped you carry the weight of your season when it feels heavy? (2 minutes each)(4 minutes total)
6. Jessalyn, Bess - How have you navigated heartbreak, frustration, letting go, or children making hard choices? (2 minutes each)(4 minutes total)
7. Jessalyn - How do you continue mothering adult children without controlling? (2 minutes)
8. Chelsea - What would you say to a mom carrying shame today? (2 minutes)
9. Alexa - How has motherhood exposed your need for Jesus in ways nothing else has? (2 minutes)
10. Everyone - If you could speak one sentence over every mother in this room today or those who want to be mothers today, what would you say? (3 minutes total)