



King of Virtues – Part 1: His Gifts of Goodness and Discernment

PASTOR BRIAN COLES

DECEMBER 1, 2024

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group is able to lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **This Is Our God** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do** (*Passion*)
- **Reign Above It All** (*Bethel Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Luke 2:13-15
- 2 Peter 1:5-6
- Psalm 23
- Matthew 25:14-30
- Proverbs 13:20-21
- Romans 12:2

OPENING PRAYER

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help you grow in goodness and discernment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God's goodness is a central attribute to worship, especially during Christmas.
2. We are called to imitate God's goodness in our lives.
3. God's discernment is beautiful and just, as illustrated in the Parable of the Talents.
4. Growing in discernment requires intentional effort and wise choices.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon mentioned that humans aren't naturally prone to goodness. Why do you think this is, and how can we overcome this tendency?
2. Read Psalm 23 together. How does this psalm reflect God's goodness? Share a time when you experienced God's goodness in your life.
3. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), what strikes you most about the master's response to each servant? How does this reflect God's character?
4. The third servant misjudged the master's character and acted out of fear. Can you think of a time when you misjudged God's character? How did it affect your actions?
5. Proverbs 13:20-21 emphasizes the importance of choosing wise companions. How has your choice of friends influenced your spiritual growth, positively or negatively?
6. Romans 12:2 talks about renewing our minds. What practical steps can we take to renew our minds and grow in discernment?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. **Goodness Challenge:** This week, intentionally perform one act of kindness each day, focusing on the well-being of others.
2. **Discernment Exercise:** Choose a decision you're currently facing. Use the process outlined in Joshua 1:8 (talk about it, think about it, do it) to seek God's wisdom in this matter.
3. **Scripture Meditation:** Spend time meditating on 2 Peter 1:5-6 this week. Journal about how you can add goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, and godliness to your faith.
4. **Friendship Evaluation:** Prayerfully consider your close relationships. Are they helping you grow in wisdom? If needed, make a plan to seek out more spiritually mature friendships.
5. **Daily Bible Reading:** Commit to reading a portion of Scripture each day, asking God to reveal His character and will through His Word.

PRAYER

End the session by praying for each other, asking God to help you grow in goodness and discernment throughout the week.