

A Tight End and Talents

Ah the fall. Football, cooler temperatures, and back to school. These are a few of my favorite things. I sing much better in type. I'm pumped about football. I love the NFL, NCAA, and fantasy football. I love a good football story. One of my favorites is about Chris Cooley. Chris was given a \$9 million signing bonus. He took the check to the bank and deposited it in the drive thru at the local bank. It's impossible for me to imagine getting a signing bonus. Much less one that large. That's a lot of White Castle sliders. What would you do with that check? Would you send it through the tube at the bank? Would you even deposit it knowing the FDIC doesn't insure that much? We think about large amounts differently because we don't normally deal with numbers that large. For some people \$9 million is not a huge number. For others, it is insulting to think that

a guy gets paid that much to play football. I was reminded of this story recently when Pastor Keith was talking to me about the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. The master goes away and trusts each of his servants with some money. He gives the first servant five talents, the second servant two talents, and the last servant one talent. When the master comes back, the first servant gives back the original five... plus five more. The second gives back the original two and two more. The third servant only has the original talent because he was afraid and hid it. The response of the master interests me. I'd love for him to say, "Oh well, I didn't really give you much to start with. Thanks for holding on to what I gave you." He didn't exactly give the servant a fair chance just giving him *one* talent. Instead the master fires back loud and fierce. He takes the talent and gives it to the servant with

ten and calls the servant worthless and throws him out. I'm not writing this to beg you to vote and help pay for a youth building. I'm writing this because it made me think about what I'm doing with what God gives me. Not just my money, but my time and abilities as well. We have a tendency to hoard the things God gives us. We talk about protecting our time. We build our savings accounts. But really the master gave the servants the talents so that they could use them to further his interests. God doesn't give us money, time, and abilities to further our own interests. God gives us those things to further HIS kingdom. We need to stop complaining about what God hasn't given us, and start using what we have to honor him. He also wants us to develop them. The investments were given so they would grow. Are you seeking to use and develop your talents? I'd hate to bury what he has given me and be called worthless.

How you can help our Youth Group

How can you as a parent help youth group? We have many ways actually. We need people to help provide snacks. Sometimes parents team up to provide snacks for a week. Daralea heads this up so if you are willing to help in this way please let her know.

Crime Chase is another opportunity we have for parents to be involved. We need many volunteers in the woods that night to help keep teens safe and doing what they should. We also need help preparing and serving food. Please e-mail me if you are willing to help out.

Recognizing the importance of the ministry is important. Making youth group a priority for your teen is huge for us. Youth ministry just isn't the same without your teens. We need them. Please make it a priority in your family's life. We meet regularly on Sunday evenings at 6 and we do an event every month.

Youth Pastor:

Paul Weaver
(765) 432-7374

pweaver@bbcministries.org

www.bbcministries.org

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Jr. High Schedule of Events

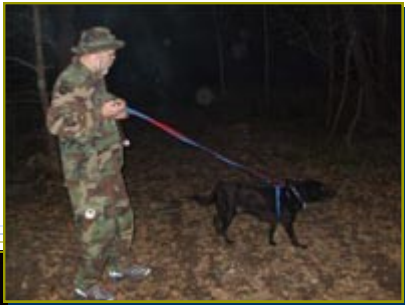
September 11—Yes We Can

September 28—See You At The Pole

October 22—Crime Chase



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