1 – **To One Who Knows The Right Thing To Do**   
James 4:13-17

2 - **Not Doing The Right Thing**

3 points from Matthew 25 -

* Vs. 1-13 - not getting prepared.
* Vs. 14-30 - not using our talents & abilities to serve God.
* Vs. 31-46 - not serving one another.

3 - **Paul wrote in Romans 7:19-20,**

***“For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.”***

**Why don’t we do the right thing?**

4 - **For some, it might be a case of ignorance.**

* **“Unwittingly”? (**Numbers 15:22)
* The ignorant are called to seek God and repent.   
  (Acts 17:26-31)
* Zeal must be “*in accordance with knowledge*”   
  (Romans 10:1-3;
* Is it **“*willful ignorance*”**? (2 Peter 3:5; ASV, “*willfully forget*” Matt. 25:31ff)

5 - **For some, it might be that we think we have a better idea.**

* “***Did we not…”*** (Matthew 7:21-23)
* We need to learn from God what the good and right thing is.   
  (Titus 3:14)
* It’s not up to us to decide “the right thing”. (Jeremiah 10:23; Leviticus 10:2)
* “It seems to me…” (Proverbs 14:12; 3:5)
* “God didn’t say not to…” or “at least we’re doing something…”
* The right thing to do is to be of faith. (Romans 10:17; Deuteronomy 29:29)

6 - **For some, it’s simply a case of apathy or laziness**.

* We know the right thing but we’ve grown indifferent or lukewarm. (Revelation 3:15-16;
* Don’t be “sluggish”! (Hebrews 6:11-12)
* Failure to use what God has blessed us with.   
  (Matthew 25:24-27)

7 - **For some, it’s because of other priorities or distractions**.

* The kingdom and His righteousness come first. (Matthew 6:33)
* Are we redeeming the time? (Ephesians 5:15-17)
* “Good things” that aren’t the “best things” get in the way. (Luke 10:38-42)
* Perhaps our profession, our investments, even our family? (Luke 14:16-24)

8 - **For some, it’s a case of the cost being too much**

* The rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)
* The “right thing” often isn’t convenient. (Luke 10:31-32)
* The “right thing” often has a cost. (Luke 14:25; Philippians 3:7-11)
* Persecution for the cause of Christ. (2 Timothy 3:12;   
  1 Peter 4:12; Matthew 5:10; John 9:22; 12:42)

9 - **For all, it’s because we really didn’t want to**.

* Are we willing? (John 7:17; Revelation 22:17)
* Learning to deny self and sacrifice.   
  (Matthew 16:24)

10 - **The solution – repentance is demanded**.

* **James 4:17 mentions it is sin to fail to do what is right.**(Luke 13:2-5)
* **All sin needs to be repented of but the demands of repentance are different when we’ve failed to do the right thing as opposed to doing what is wrong.**   
  (Luke 3:10-14)
* **Develop new habits**. (Hebrews 10:25; Daniel 6:10;   
  Acts 17:11)

11 - **The solution – repentance is demanded**.

* **Learn about the “right things” to do in God’s word.**
* **Humble ourselves under the Lord.**
* **Be zealous.**
* **Eliminate the distractions.**
* **Compare the cost of doing right to the glory to be revealed.**
* **Make God’s will your will.**

12 - **The Right Thing To Do**

* **Are you ready?**
* **Are you using your talents and abilities to serve the Lord?**
* **Are you in humility serving one another?**