

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Nature of the Coming Kingdom

Luke 19: 11-27

Introduction: In this fascinating parable, Luke records yet another reference to the coming Kingdom. Jesus has not left us ignorant about the signs of His coming or what to expect upon His arrival. This parable gives insight on what to expect.

I. An Unusual Parable

- A. There are about as many ideas of what this parable means as there are commentators. The key, however, to its interpretation lies in verse 11
- B. This parable is also unusual in its depth of meaning
 - 1. Most parables illustrate only a single point — this one certainly does that: the Kingdom is not coming immediately
 - 2. But this parable has a number of significant sub-themes
 - a. The King is going away for awhile
 - b. He has left His servants with resources
 - c. He will examine performance upon His return
 - d. He will judge His enemies afterward

II. The Servants Receive Resources and Stewardship

- A. Note that each one receives the same (equal) resources
- B. This is a reference to the gift of the Holy Spirit and the enabling He brings
- C. The one Gift is not to be confused with the Spiritual gifts or natural aptitudes which everyone has in different measure

III. The Final Judgment for Believers and Unbelievers

- A. After receiving the Kingdom, the King returns to reign and each one is examined
- B. The servants must give an account of their stewardship and report the results of His investment in them
 - 1. Spiritual accomplishments in this life will predict placement in the Kingdom period
 - 2. Some will be saved, but just barely, having wasted their life
- C. The rebellious citizens who rejected the rule of the King will be cast into the Lake of Fire in the second death. It will be a horrible day for them

Conclusion: No true believer will stand before the final judgment of the rebellious and unbelieving. Every believer will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for this life. Are you yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you allowing Him to work through you in the accomplishment of His goals? Is your life paying dividends in the Kingdom?

While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain why this is not a parable about the use of money.
2. What are some of the unusual features of this parable?
3. Explain the distribution of equal resources to every servant.
4. Does this equal investment by the King in His servants mean that everyone has equal Spiritual gifts and aptitudes? Explain your answer.
5. Verse 27 seems pretty gruesome. To what event does it refer?
6. How can you maximize God's investment in you?

NOTES

take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

Luke 19: 11-27 NASB

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

1 Corinthians 3: 11-15 NIV

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