

**Kingdom Accountability**  
Luke 19:11-27 (06-28-2020)  
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Turn to Luke 19:11. We have a rich portion of Jesus' teaching before us. He's on His last journey to Jerusalem. In Luke 19:10 He spelled out His mission for his first coming – to seek and save the lost. The people are listening to Him, but Jesus has to correct a huge misunderstanding.

**They Supposed**

*Luke 19:11 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.*

Watch out for your supposes. You may be wrong. The people supposed that when Jesus got up to Jerusalem He would immediately declare Himself King of the Jews, destroy all Israel's enemies, and set up His kingdom. True, the prophets told about the coming glory of the millennial kingdom in Daniel 2 and 7, Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 2, Zechariah 14 and many other places. But what the people failed to see was the sufferings of the Messiah first (Isaiah 53). We saw in Luke 18:34 that even the disciples didn't get it. Suffering first. In Acts 1:6 they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus says, "It's not for you to know the times or seasons the Father has fixed. I've got something for you to do first." It's coming, but we don't know when.

You may remember the 88 reasons why Jesus is coming back in 1988. This was a teaching by a NASA engineer. Then the radio preacher Harold Camping predicted that Jesus was coming back in 1994. When that didn't work out, he changed the date to 2011. Mr. Camping died in 2013. Recently I saw a YouTube of a preacher who has this whole Covid-19 thing with all the vaccines and technology figured out; it's a harbinger of Christ's return. The fact is no one knows when Jesus is coming back to earth. We do know He is coming back and we do know that while He is gone He has given all of His people something to do. He has called us to invest our lives in His mission of seeking and saving the lost.

**A Distant Country**

Jesus tells this story about a nobleman going far away to receive a kingdom and then returns.

*Luke 19:12 So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return.*

*Luke 19:14 "But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'*

There's a back story to Jesus' parable. Herod the Great's son Archelaus was assigned to rule over Judea and he was a wicked man. He had to make the long journey to Rome to have Augustus Caesar ratify his kingship. The Jews hated him and sent a 50-man delegation to Rome to try to persuade Augustus to reject him as ruler. So when Jesus tells this parable, the Jews would have remembered Archelaus and that delegation.

In this parable Jesus is the nobleman. He is going to a distant country, namely heaven, to receive the kingdoms of this world from the Father (Psalm 2). The citizens are the Jewish leaders who cry out, "We don't want this Man to rule over us." When Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your King?" they actually cried out, "We have no king but Caesar!" (John 19:15). Jesus then tells us what we're to do while He is gone.

**Do Business**

*Luke 19:13 "And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.'*

Before the nobleman, Jesus, leaves for heaven to officially receive the kingdom, He gives ten slaves (us) each a mina (basically three month's salary) and assigns them a task. "Do business with this mina until I come back." He has not yet come back, so each of His people has a responsibility to use this time to do His business on earth. What is His business? It certainly starts with carrying out the great commission of preaching the gospel, discipling the nations, and living for His glory in this world of hostile people. It isn't easy, but this is what He has called us to do.

Each of us has opportunity to invest His mina in various ways. He has given us all various gifts, talents, opportunities, situations, families, and relationships to invest in His work. Peter talks about this:

*1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Every believer has been given a personal, individualized gift – a special gift – to serve in the body of Christ. Some speak, some serve, but everyone gets a gift or mina. Not everyone is a preacher or teacher or missionary, but everyone has opportunity to serve in this time while our Lord is gone. We are here on earth to be salt and light and to glorify Christ in all that we do. This includes being God's kind of husband, God's kind of wife, godly parents, godly workers.

So the Master has given you a mina to do business and invest in the things of God until He returns. It is His mina entrusted to you. Use it. Don't sit on your mina. You will give God an account of how well you used His mina.

### **The Bema Seat**

*Luke 19:15-19 "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. 16 "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' 17 "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.' 18 "The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' 19 "And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'*

What is the Bema Seat of Christ? Paul talks about it in 2 Corinthians 5:10. The Greek word for judgment is *bema*. We will all appear before the judgment (*bema*) seat of Christ and give an account.

*2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

This is not talking about salvation judgment, but about accountability and rewards for faithfulness in your life right now. Christ hasn't left us here just to laze around as if this were vacation time or a resort. We're not here to live for our own desires and pleasures and self. There's nothing wrong with a little vacation, but every day counts toward the accountability we will give when Christ takes us home at the rapture. How did you use His mina? Did you do business for the King or did you live for yourself? And there will be degrees of reward and recompense for what we've done here in our bodies.

The master calls out three of his slaves. The first one diligently used his master's mina and made a 1000% return, ending up with ten minas. Notice how pleased Jesus is with faithfulness in using the gifts and opportunities He gives us. Well done! A good slave is faithful in doing business with just a little mina. Jesus measures faithfulness in the little things of life. For most of us there aren't any really big things. He rewards the slave with authority over ten cities. Jesus may be speaking of responsibilities in the coming 1000-year reign in Revelation 20, where He says His people will rule with Him for 1000 years.

The next guy comes up to give account. He did business with the Lord's mina and made five more. Not everyone is going to make ten minas from the Lord's one mina. I imagine a Paul and Peter and Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon, and MacArthur would be ten mina slaves. The rest of us may turn our Lord's mina into five or three or six, whatever. The important thing is that we lived our lives in this world, every day, for the

glory of God. We weren't ashamed to confess Him before men. Faithful wives and husbands and single people and workers and people who clean bottoms in the nursery, well, they may be 20 mina people. Notice too, both the ten and the five mina slaves recognized it wasn't their mina, but the Lord's mina. He gets the credit for whatever we accomplish. We have His treasure in earthen vessels so all the glory goes to Him!

Every day is important as a believer. Psalm 90:12 is so good. "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom." Imagine if at the end of every day Jesus came to you for an account of your day? We're not talking about preaching or being a missionary or a flaming evangelist, although praise God if that's how His mina to you shakes out. Whether it's evangelizing or praying or working or giving out a church card or studying, whatever you do in each day, do all for the glory of God. That's investing His mina, doing business for our Master.

### **Another**

*Luke 19:20-26 "Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' 22 "He \*said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless (wicked) 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? 23 'Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' 24 "Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' 25 "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' 26 "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.*

You'll notice verse 20 begins with "another" which in Greek means another of a different kind. So here comes the third one and he has his Master's mina wrapped up in a handkerchief, literally a sweat cloth. It was a cloth you used to wipe sweat off your brow or to wipe your nose (Thayer).

Why didn't he invest it like the others? He tells us. He feared the Master. He saw Him as a mean, severe, even lawless Master, taking what He didn't lay down and reaping where He didn't sow. He has no heart for the Master. He tries to gaslight the Master, turning it back on Him. "It's your fault that I didn't do any business with your mina." Excuses. In fact this guy is blaspheming his Master. The other two didn't see the Master like this guy did. Have you ever met someone who saw Christ and Christianity as severe, too demanding? If he had even an ounce of love for the Master or just a bit of respect and honor for the Master, he wouldn't have these thoughts. These are the thoughts of the unbeliever.

Verse 22 tells us this man has condemned himself by his attitude. At the very least, if he had any heart at all for the Master, even if he was too lazy to go out and do business with it, he could have put it in the bank and made a little interest on it. Little is better than nothing! In fact, Jesus calls him a worthless or wicked (ESV) slave! Good for nothing! Useless. He was ashamed of his Master. At best he represents a nominal Christian. Jesus doesn't tell us if he is saved or not.

So the Master tells those listening, "Take this man's mina and give it to the man who has ten." "Wait, wait! That's not fair! Master, he already has ten." Like the Master didn't know that? Here's the principle: Use it or lose it. God gives opportunities where we can either get busy serving or we can wrap them in a sweat towel and throw them in a drawer. A man who is faithful, responsible, and loves his Master enough to get out there and do business with the blessing he has from the Master will get more. Jesus didn't function on "Everybody gets a trophy" policy. Jesus rewards the faithful and responsible. Remember, this is not earning salvation, but being rewarded for a job well done with what God gives us after salvation. Jesus will highly honor loving faithfulness to His cause at the Bema Seat of Christ. "Lord, teach us to number our days, to use them for your glory!"

### **These Enemies**

*Luke 19:27 "But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."*

This sounds severe, doesn't it? Remember, these are haters of Christ living in His world. Jesus' immediate enemies will turn Him over to Pilate to be crucified. They are guilty of treason. They said, "We'll not have this man rule over us." How sad that is, because this man is Lord of Lords and King of Kings and we're all living in His world. Psalm 2:9 says He will break them with a rod of iron.

It's a sad story, but these God-haters, secularists, rebels angrily flouting the rule and rights of God, shall pay dearly. They will come under the sharp edge of divine judgment. People who spit at God, talk back to God, stick out their tongue at God, ridicule the Bible, even rape and pillage and murder other people made in God's image, will not escape the judgment of God. Each one of them will be brought before Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20. They will be forced to bow their knee before Christ and confess that He is Lord, even though they hate Him. They will go into the lake of fire gnashing their teeth as they confess Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

What is Jesus saying to you and me? There are three kinds of people here: haters, faithful, and worthless. Which are you?

First, haters of God. Those who hate Him will face their day of severe judgment. It is coming and there is no escape unless they repent. They are indeed sinners in the hands of an angry God.

Second, Christ's faithful followers, believers. He has left us here to invest our lives in His cause, His kingdom. He has given each of us His mina. Whatever our gifts, talents, opportunities, He will ask for an account from us when He judges His people at the Bema Seat. How did you use your life for Him? Were you unashamed of Him in this hostile world? I think back to the 1400s when those faithful Waldensians were smoked out of caves and tortured and slaughtered for their faith in Christ. I think of those French Huguenots ambushed and slain by enemies of the gospel in Paris and France. They didn't sit on their minas; they invested their lives in the things of God regardless of the cost. We don't all have the same gifts, but we can all live every day for His glory and be unashamed of Him.

Third, the worthless ones. What about that third slave who wrapped his mina in a sweat rag? Was he a Christian who didn't get any rewards at the judgment seat of Christ? He identified with the other slaves, and the Master did give him a mina. But if he was salt, he didn't shake it around. If he was the light of the world, he certainly didn't shine it. Where was this guy's heart? Jesus called him a worthless or wicked slave. Martyn Lloyd Jones wrote, "There is nothing in God's universe that is so utterly useless as a merely formal Christian."

Don't sit on your mina. It's not yours; it belongs to Christ. Go do business for your Lord. Every day, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17). Remember that little poem by missionary C. T. Studd, "Only One Life?" There are actually eight stanzas. Here are two that fit this parable by Christ.

*Two little lines I heard one day,  
Traveling along life's busy way;  
Bringing conviction to my heart,  
And from my mind would not depart;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, yes only one,  
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;  
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,  
And stand before His Judgment seat;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.*