

While We Wait  
Luke 19:11-27

As I have continued to study the precious words of this Parable given by the Lord Jesus, I feel compelled to give one more consideration to some of the questions that He presents to us within His words, especially the questions that have to do with His "Spiritual Gifts" that He so generously places within us, and then also the accountability that He will require for our use of them.

Here, in this parable, our Lord is the Nobleman that is spoken about who has gone away for a while to be crowned King. And here, He tells us that yes, He will surely return, at a time when we will least expect Him. And when He does return, He will require an accounting of the things that we should have been doing while He has been gone.

And the question for us is, knowing that this will surely take place, what should you and I be about while we wait for His return?

Here, the Lord Jesus presents this question to us in the simple words of this parable. And I'd like for us to consider its requirements for a few moments, first beginning in verse 11 of Luke chapter 19. Listen,

<sup>11</sup> . . . He (the Lord Jesus) spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they (His followers) thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come. (Luke 19:11-13)

As I read these beginning words about the hope and the desire that these dear people had that the "Kingdom of God" would soon come among them and would wipe away all of the miseries of daily life that they suffered under the constant control of the world, the flesh and the devil. And also, for these people of Jesus' day, the ever-present domination put upon them by the hated Romans, we can imagine their struggles.

I confess to you that, for myself, I don't hold fast to the things of this life. With the exception of my relationships with family members and friends, and the ministries I have been involved in over these past years, I really don't count the rest of my daily life on this earth as being very important.

And as I observe the corruption that constantly reaches out to me and into my life, and especially into the lives of my beloved family members, I sincerely hope for and look forward to that wonderful moment when the Lord Jesus will come blazing across the skies with His heavenly host of angels to finally and fully establish His Kingdom here on the earth.

And Jesus will surely do that someday, and I hope soon. But as He had been telling these people then, His “Kingdom” must first come to us in a much quieter way, a way without much observation, one in which He will first invade the depths of our hearts and souls and turn the wasteland of our sinful selves into a blessed and flourishing home for His goodness and His holiness, fertile ground in which He can plant His seeds of righteousness to grow into mighty trees, feeding all those around.

As with His illustration of the tiny mustard seed, His presence and His Kingdom are intended to grow and to flourish and to cover the whole earth, blessing everyone it touches.

Here in this parable, Jesus spoke of His need to “go away” for a while to be crowned King. But while He was to be away, the disciples then, and we now, are to be busily about spreading His Kingdom throughout the earth.

And here, Jesus illustrated His point with the use of a quantity of money, here called a Mina. A Mina was a coin worth about three months wages, a small amount when compared to the Parable of the Talents in which each talent was valued at about twenty years wages.

The smaller sum of money of the Mina is another illustration of Jesus coming first without much observation. Here, a quiet deposit of His Spirit would begin the invasion. But with much diligence and work being carried forward by us, His servants, His Kingdom could quickly spread throughout the whole earth.

May I again read the words of this Parable, here beginning in verse 11 of Luke chapter 19,

<sup>11</sup> While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.

13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

15 "He was made king however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

17 " 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

20 "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth.

21 I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'

22 "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?

23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

24 "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

25 " 'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

27 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.' " (Luke 19:11-27)

In this parable, Jesus spoke of the time that He would be crucified and would ascend back into heaven, be crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords and would sit at the right hand of God the Father. And as He would leave the earth, He would give to each of us, those who receive Him into our hearts and become His servants, certain gifts, gifts that we could diligently put to use so that His kingdom might grow and flourish as it should.

The reason that He Himself gave us the gifts was simply because we, in ourselves, are otherwise totally destitute of any usable substance or worth, and cannot, of our own wisdom and power, make His kingdom to grow. It can only grow through the use of the special gifts that He has left with us.

His gifts, the Minas, represent the Spiritual Gifts that are described for us in the Books of Romans and of Ephesians and of 1st Corinthians.

In Romans chapter 12, we read about the Spiritual Gifts of prophecy, of serving, of teaching, of exhortation, of giving, of leadership and of compassion.

And in Ephesians chapter 4, we find the Spiritual Gifts of apostleship, of evangelism and of pastoring.

And in 1st Corinthians 12, we find the Spiritual Gifts of healing, of miracles, of tongues, of interpretation, of wisdom, of knowledge, of faith, of discernment, of helping others and of administration.

About those Spiritual Gifts, we are told in 1 Corinthians 12,

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

These special gifts, often given one at a time, are given to each of us as we receive the Holy Spirit into our soul at the moment we are saved. But also, at later times as we minister, the Holy Spirit might empower us with other gifts.

Listen, following on with verse 8 of 1 Corinthians 12!

<sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

<sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

<sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

And listen carefully to verse 11 of 1st Corinthians 12!

<sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

In this parable that we are studying, the Nobleman is Jesus. As He left the earth to be proclaimed King of Kings, He, through His Holy Spirit, gave appropriate gifts to each of us, His servants, those who truly want Him to be our King, so that we would have everything we need to carry forward the ministry He left remaining until His return.

And we are commanded to put His Spiritual Gifts to work in our daily life, multiplying their effect and purpose, many, many times over.

And as declared here in this parable, He will surely return. And on that day, He will call each of us into account for the use that we made of His gifts.

And as we are told in Hebrews 11:6, when He returns, He will surely reward us if we have been diligent in using His gifts.

In this parable of the minas, we see the King of Kings as He calls each of His servants, you and me, to account for the use of our gifts and to reward us accordingly.

Note the first servant who was very diligent in his service. He said,

<sup>16</sup> "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

<sup>17</sup> " 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' (Luke 19:16-17)

And then to another servant,

<sup>18</sup> "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

<sup>19</sup> "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' (Luke 19:18-19)

But then take note of this other servant who hid the Mina away in a cloth. Too often within church congregations, many of the members are not diligent workers and they are not trustworthy with the use of the gifts the Master gives to them.

Unfortunately, it is often only a few of the members who do most all of the work, with the others simply attending the morning worship service and then quickly leaving.

And also unfortunately, many within a congregation are not diligent to study the scriptures and to know the sweeter, deeper truths about our Lord. And because of that, as with this one man here, they develop wrong beliefs and understandings about the Lord, causing them to distrust Him.

Yes, a person can truly believe and be saved, but yet have such error-filled ideas about God that they are totally ineffectual in their response to Him. Listen!

<sup>20</sup> "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth.

<sup>21</sup> I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'

<sup>22</sup> "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?

<sup>23</sup> Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

<sup>24</sup> "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

<sup>25</sup> " 'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

<sup>26</sup> "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

(Luke 19:20-26)

I do fear that this third servant is representative of a great number of us who are very regular church goers. We receive our salvation, and in our salvation we receive Spiritual Gifts from the Holy Spirit. But for reasons unique to each of us, we are ineffectual in our use of our gifts.

And may we also pause for a moment and give special consideration to this servant who had developed wrong beliefs about his Master and did not trust him.

I can especially identify with this servant. Why? It's because too often we form judgments about God based on our view of our earthly fathers and about the other men in authority that we know.

For me, for the first several years of my Christian life, I had an inordinate fear of God the Father. I didn't know His character and I didn't trust His behaviors.

And yes, from reading the words in the Old Testament, we know that God is strict and often unyielding. And that seemed to produce an unhealthy fear within me.

Thankfully, as time passed, God's Holy Spirit got control of those emotions and I eventually came to know that God is a trustworthy Father, that He loved me so much that He gave His dearly beloved Son to suffer and to die for me.

And from that, as the words of the Hymn "Amazing Grace" refrain, "My fears were then forever relieved", and I came to have a deep loving relationship with God, my Father.

Unfortunately though, there are also many, many other reasons why we can be ineffective with the Spiritual gifts God has given to us. And that is especially so in this fast-paced modern lifestyle that engulfs us each day.

I think of the people spoken about in the "Parable of the Soils". Though that Parable was given over two thousand years ago, it is still fitting in its description today. We are such busy people today, working hard, making and spending money, marrying and giving in marriage, and on and on, not resting for a moment.

Our habits and behaviors so well fit those words within that third soil, our daily involvements rendering us completely ineffective in producing any worthwhile fruit at all.

Listen to these words given in the Book of Matthew chapter 13,

<sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)

Yes, these words can seem to include those who are not truly saved, but for sure it fits those of us who are saved but just caught up in the overwhelming busyness of daily life, earning money and enjoying our wealth, our souls lingering just inside the doorway of salvation, but not going much further inside.

It is of course, the fourth soil in that parable that our Lord desires for each of us, the one where we move on forward with great vigor. Listen to those words!

<sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." (Matthew 13:23)

This soil sounds much like the first servants spoken about here in the Parable of the Minas whom the Lord greatly rewarded.

And please know that while as an unprofitable servant, we might still get to go into heaven, but what an awful alternative we will have chosen. We will surely spend our eternity knowing that we could have done better.

So, we dare not be as this third servant who hid away his Spiritual Gift and did nothing with it!

But far worse, take note also of this other decision being made here. Only a quick mention is given here about those who have completely refused to accept Christ as their King, but oh, their final outcome is devastating.

Recall that there was a group of citizens mentioned in verse 14 that followed along after the Master as He left to be crowned King. Verse 14,

<sup>14</sup> "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'" (Luke 19:14)

Folks, there will surely come a day of accountability for every soul that is born on this earth, both for those who want Christ to be their King and for those who don't.

And please note these words carefully that He said to those who refuse Him! These words are simple, but they are ever so final! Verse 27 . . .

<sup>27</sup> But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.' " (Luke 19:27)

Who might these ones be, especially within the culture of our day? Folks, yes, it's often the drug dealers and the other violent criminals that operate all around us each day. But may we please understand that it is also those who are less obvious to us, those who take a clear stand against Christ, many within our



media, many in the legal system, many in the academic system, and the list goes on and on, self-styled and boastful unbelievers.

And unfortunately, and even more sadly, it is also the many, many multitudes who just quietly reject Christ by simply never receiving Him as Savior. They are the many who prefer the "broad path", they love the world and the things of this world. And they choose the world over the salvation of Christ.

May we close with this strong admonition! Do not be as these poor, lost citizens and give up your birthright for the small bowl of porridge that this world has to offer.

But also, do not be as the unprofitable servant who misunderstood God and His gracious, loving nature.

God is continually reaching out to you and to me who believe, and by His Spirit He is empowering us to carry on forward the purpose for which Christ came among us, "to seek and to save those who are lost". And you and I must quickly be about that same purpose.

Consider, as we close . . . wouldn't it be a wonderful thing, when on that day that we stand before Christ in judgment, that He would say to us,

<sup>17</sup> 'Well done, my good servant!' . . . 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' (Luke 19:17)

Pray with me.