

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

LESSON 5

The Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:11-27)

Literary Context

1. In Luke 18:31-34, Jesus has told his disciples about his upcoming death and resurrection. They did not understand because they were expecting Him to restore the Kingdom of Israel imminently. In Luke 19:1-10, Zaccheus responds to Jesus and is saved, as a result what is Zaccheus' active response to the love that Jesus showed him (Luke 19:8)? What did Moses say about repaying those who have been defrauded (in Leviticus 6:5)?

2. The parable of the minas is connected to the action of Zaccheus by verse 11, "while they were listening to these things." The parable is encouraging the listeners to respond as Zaccheus has responded. In verse 11, the disciples expect the Kingdom to "appear" or to be set up immediately, Jesus is going to tell this parable to explain that there will be a delay. Instead there will be an interadvent age between Jesus' first and 2nd coming in which believers will be expected to be the stewards of their gifts and talents and possessions. What does Luke 18:34 and 19:11 address? What response, illustrated by Zaccheus, does Jesus expect?

Historical Context

3. After the death of Herod the Great, he divided his kingdom (under Rome) to three of his sons. Archelaus was given rule over Judea but he had to go to Rome for this position to be confirmed. Because he was a tyrant, the Jews sent a delegation to Rome opposing him. Archelaus was a citizen of Judea and thus had claim to rule; however, the Judeans did not want him as ruler. When the king returned with authority he would distribute praise and blame, rewards and penalties, and of course, vengeance on his enemies. Since the listeners knew that story, the parable Jesus told would be very familiar to them. In the parable who does the nobleman represent? Where does he go to receive the kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14)?

Read Luke 19:12-27

4. Who did he call (in Luke 19:12) to do business for him? Who would they be today (2 Cor. 5:20)? Who are the citizens (v. 14)? What happens to the citizens upon his return (v. 27)?

5. What did he give each of his slaves and why did he give it? What happens upon the nobleman's return in v.15?

6. What did each servant do with what he had been given? How many commendations did the master give? Why didn't everyone receive a commendation?

7. What was the worthless slaves' answer in v. 21-22? What was his mistake in judgment? What was faulty about his logic? What did the slave have to lose? Whose money was it? What do you think he did during this time the master was gone? Who would be like him today?

8. Compare the consequences dealt to the worthless slave to the rewards given to the first two slaves. Compare the consequences dealt to the worthless slave to that of the enemies in v. 27.

9. What do the minas represent today? Will each person be held accountable for how he uses the minas entrusted to him (v. 22)?

10. Read verse 26. Jesus has given us incredible blessings in addition to salvation based on his death on the cross. He has shed His grace upon us in abundance, and yet if we will serve Him in this life, even more blessing will be added in Heaven. A prerequisite of rewards in Heaven is salvation obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. How do you obtain salvation according to John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24? If Jesus came back today, how would you fare under the type of judgment in Luke 19:22-26?