



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 93 “Reaping what You Sow” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 19:11-27 ESV

The Parable of the Ten Minas

19 ¹¹ As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, ^[a] he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ ²⁰ Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ ²² He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ ²⁶ ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”

We are in a pivotal point in the story today. It is the last parable before the **Triumphal Entry** by which Jesus enters into Jerusalem, the week of Passover, the



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week prior to His death. In this story we see this is his last public lesson as a Rabbi, His public teaching tour has come to an end. He has spent several chapters teaching on the coming of the Kingdom, the *Son of Man* (His favorite title for Himself) who is bringing it in, the type of person that finds the kingdom, the meek the lowly, the poor, the outcasts, and even sinners. He has also shown the perils of being Rich, Wise, and Self-Righteous/Sufficient and that is impossible for them to enter into the Kingdom of God.

But we discovered **HOPE** over the last two months:

Luke 18:27 ESV - "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

Luke 19:10 ESV – "For the **Son of Man** came to seek and to save the lost."

And Luke showed us what it looks like when **HOPE** comes to fruition in 2 very important miracles before this last lesson from the Rabbi. One, he heals the Blind Man, Bartimaeus, by Faith which produces Salvation and He then befriends the worst of sinners in Zacchaeus, producing Faith by displaying God's ability to forgive, saving Him. The weak, the unloved, the outcast, the sinner, the secluded, the dejected, the forlorn had been claimed by Jesus, they have received Grace, and they were saved by their Faith, believing in Him.

Luke has also showed us what it looks like for those that remain blind to who Jesus is. Those that are jealous of Him, those that deny His authority, those that challenged Him, the older brother types, the ones sent to shepherd the people, they all had been warned there was no repentance by them and now they had been condemned by their own actions of rejecting Him.

In this last story, Jesus tells the fate of all those He had been taking about. It is the conclusion to His teachings on the Kingdom of God.

Background to this story:

19 ¹¹ As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, he



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gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’

This parable is actually a mixture of history + prophecy as in Jesus uses a past story that His listeners would recognize and He then brings in His audience, that includes us, into the story by looking ahead to the closing of time.

It was 40 B.C. and **Herod the Great** took his journey to Rome. He wanted to secure for himself the monarchy in Israel. He went there. He negotiated with Marc Antony to grant him the right to rule under Caesar in Israel. He was given that right. And he ruled until he died in 4 B.C. Now upon his death in his will it was prescribed that the kingdom would be divided into three parts and given to his three sons. Each of those sons immediately then took authority and the kingdom was divided in terms of rule. The son who was given Judea, which would include Jerusalem and Jericho, was named Archelaus. People were very familiar with Archelaus because Archelaus had built a palace in Jericho.

After Herod the Great died, Archelaus’ wanted to establish his power and his authority and elevate the fear of the people and intimidate them, at the first Passover after his ascension, he **slaughtered 3,000 Jews**. He was not trying to endear himself. Politics was different in those days. He was trying to terrify the people. He slaughtered 3,000 of them. The people hated him, despised him, and had every right to. He was wicked and murderous.

The time came for him, like his father, to travel to Rome and receive the official coronation and recognition for being ruler in that providence “*Imprimatur of Caesar*”. When Archelaus went, the people detested him so greatly that they sent a delegation, that they sent a group of people as representatives of the populace of Judea trailing him all the way to Rome. And while he was appealing for Caesar to give him the right to be the king, they were appealing to Caesar saying this, “We do not want this man to reign over us.” And so, Caesar, the historians tell us, being the politician that he was, trying to find middle ground to make everybody happy as politicians do, said, “Well, Archelaus, you can be king, you just can't have the name. You have to be an ***ethnarch***. You can't take the title king until you earn it by the favor of the people. The nobleman who went to the great king to receive a kingdom came back to reign and to judge all his subjects.¹

¹ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-240/fitting-rewards-from-the-returning-king>



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Who is Jesus in this story:

So, Jesus has tied the people in the story in with His listeners. He now puts Himself in the story because He is making the case that **He will go away to do the same thing**, but not to Cesar but to God, the top power in the Universe. There will be those that will not want Him to be King. And the story points to a consummation that comes in the end of time.

¹⁵ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.

Here we see Jesus is confirming, through this story, the title “**Son of Man**” before entering Jerusalem. He wants it known on record that **He does believe** that He is the foretold one that Daniel the prophet told about that would bring in and inherit God’s Kingdom, that He is the Messiah, that He is the heir to the throne of David, and through **His work He will fulfill all the covenant obligations for Israel**. He will worship God with a righteous heart, He will obey God’s laws rather than give in to temptations, He will bring in true God worship of both word and deed, **AND** the reward would be that the Kingdom will endure forever!

Daniel 7:13-14 ESV

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion

¹³ “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

So, there you have it, the reason the Triumphal Entry is going to happen next week is not just because people wanted a Messiah but because **Jesus is confessing it is Him!** **GOSPEL** - You know, we live in a world today where politicians make bold claims on *what they do* or on *what they will do* or ***what won’t happen unless you do it for them!***? In the end there is no way possible to



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make everyone happy because politics and earthly powers are just a replacement, a temporary fix for what is coming.

Jesus made continual claims on who HE was from the OT, over 350 of them, of which He fulfilled all of them, God verified them because he earned resurrection, and in the end **if you will accept** His reign you will rejoice with Him forever!

If you really believe that today, if you are the faithful, then **no matter what happens this political season, no matter who has power, it should be enough!** Because you know who is really in control, you know He is coming back, you know vengeance is His, and you know there is a better tomorrow! Take Heart!

And because He is your King you should know that according to this story He will call all His servants to stand before Him, He called Bartimaeus forward, He called Zacchaeus forward and **He will call you forward** and eventually every human soul will stand in front of Him, because whether you believe it or not, or whether you want it or not, all will bow to Him in the end!

Judgement Seat of Christ

Romans 14:10-12 ESV

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the **judgment seat of God**; ¹¹ for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, **every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess** to God.”

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Perhaps today you are spending a little too much energy, a little too much time, a little too much emotional turmoil disliking, hating, resenting, despising, or devaluing someone? Because of the Gospel, you are free today to leave that behind and put that burden of judgment on Christ for by Him all will get a fair trial, and all will get what they justly deserve.

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV



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¹⁰ For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The other side of that, is that you don't want to be holding grudges against anyone for we are called to forgive (Luke 17) and a Godly love holds no record of wrong (1 Cor. 13:5) as it covers a “multitude of sin”. (1 Peter 4:8).

We also have three different characters in our story today, let's talk about them:
The Players: Faithful, False and the Foes

Faithful -

¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’

Faithful servants take what the Lord has given them, and they put it to use. The first servant takes a minas, or about a hundred Greek Drachmas = about 3 months wage. And upon the return of his king this servant increased it by a 1000%. If he had doubled it, it would have been a 100% this was ten times a 100%. And you see by the reaction of the King that this was the desire. The next servant made a 500% return for his king.

It seems in our story that using what God gave you translates not into more wealth accumulation, but it points to a different type of oversight or management as 1 Corinthians alludes to.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 ESV

² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 93 “Reaping what You Sow” By Pastor Jody May

There is a time coming in the future that the faithful, those that took what the Lord gave them, and that’s not just spiritual gifts that is your time, your resources, your energy, your loyalties, your positions in life; in your family, your job, your church, all that you have - did you take it from Jesus with the intent to put it all into service for Him? Jesus is coming back and He will ask for an account from you.

Paul calls it the Bema Judgment where we will receive our rewards for the gold, silver, precious stones of our service and all the dross will be burned away. First Corinthians 3; 1 Corinthians 4; 2 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6, even 2 Peter 1; Peter calls this the abundant entrance into the kingdom when we receive all of our rewards. There's coming a glorious future reward for the faithful, when the Lord will pour out lavishly on us more than we can ever imagine. That's why it says, "Eye hasn't seen, ear hasn't heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for them that love Him." These servants loved him, these two.²

Do you love Him? His faithful take serious the investment and they are prepared for His return, are you making ready for our Lord’s return?

False -

²⁰ Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ ²² He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’

Here is this one who is too timid, too shy, too scared to invest what they had in their life and put it to work for their king, our God. He is judged and is found to be wicked/worthless he is a **False servant**:

He was fearful and he allowed his fear to control his actions not his love. He was careless and allowed his lack of interest to hide it away.

² <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-240/fitting-rewards-from-the-returning-king>



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 93 “Reaping what You Sow” By Pastor Jody May

He was lazy and allowed his slothfulness to keep it from earning interest.

²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ ²⁶ ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’

Then you see that His servants are even surprised at the reaction of the king for He gives the 1 minas, to the servant with ten, which shows you God is concerned with making a good investment and He does reward based on good and faithful service. It also shows the tendency of people to worry more over what they believe is fair between people, He doesn’t give it to the one with 5 but the one with 10, God always goes for the victory! God is more concerned about establishing His Kingdom now than redistributing wealth. **One view would put man at the center of the story, and one puts God at the center, which one do you think is right?**

Before we get to our last character in the story, I want to share the one BIG thing that is surely applicable for you today, so that when you leave you know how you, as a character, fit in this story:

“Salvation does not depend on working for God, but resting in what Jesus Christ has done. Rewards do not depend on resting in what Jesus Christ has done, but on working for God.” – Dr. Thomas Constable

Main Point:

Salvation depends on Christ, but Rewards depend on you.

Scripture does teach us that there are rewards in Heaven stored up. (5 Crowns - <https://www.gotquestions.org/heavenly-crowns.html>). There is also the intent of this parable and that is to show you that **there are rewards that are tied up into oversight and management in God’s Kingdom.** By this point in Luke we have also learned, the greater your stewardship of your life on this side of eternity then the greater your responsibility in heaven and the closer you can be to the King!



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 93 “Reaping what You Sow” By Pastor Jody May

Today, let me stop and ask everyone this basic question if **Salvation depends on Christ, but Rewards depend on you**, then how are you stewarding what He has given you to invest?

Let me help us all in here this morning. It is not the job of the church to give you a position of service, but it is your job to steward your life to grow God’s church. The church is called to minister to God with praise, obedience, and devotion, the church is called to teach God’s Word, the church is called to take that word outside the four walls through Evangelism and Missions, and the church corporate should lead/model in the care of it’s members **BUT it is your job, your responsibility to own your life, to take all you have and to put it to use for God.**

If our government was to shut down the corporate church today would we still know what to do with our life? Would we still know how to steward the opportunities God gave us to grow His Kingdom? If not, we may want to start thinking about that before we lose the only Minas we have.

Our greatest **growth in discipleship is not** in who you are necessarily being **discipled by, but your greatest growth comes in who and when you decide to disciple someone else!** Stewardship of our lives is about **spending it on people that don’t know Jesus**, Luke has shown us that every step of the way.

Now there is one more group of people in this story that we need to talk about in closing and I pray that no one in this room is in this last group.

Foes –

¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’

²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”



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Wk. 93 "Reaping what You Sow"

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Family, if anything we see here, Salvation is not Universal for everyone. The Pharisees have done nothing but complain and persecute Him, the scribes that come from Jerusalem have been trying to trap Him, and in verse 14 Jesus identifies the problem, **they want no one to reign over them**. In the end there is only one future for those that don't want Jesus, eternal death, damnation, and exile from the Kingdom of God. For whether they know it or not, all people are in God's Kingdom, so the question is are you the Faithful, the False disciple, or a Foe?

You may be thinking, "Well, at least I am not like those guys." But let me ask you this. Do you find yourself too comfortable in here today? Do you know the Gospel and are not sharing it? Are you looking down on people that you think are more of a sinner than you? Are you disobedient to the conviction of the HS in your heart when God confronts you with sin?

If yes, you may want to think again of your standing with Christ, for He is your King, and we all have to answer to Him one day. Repent if that is you today, repent if you find yourself lazy or fearful about trying to live your life with Christ at the center. Let's embrace family the life that God has given us and let us strive to make much of Him with every breath we have!

Salvation depends on Christ, but Rewards depend on you.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that has awarded His Son the keys of Heaven, Earth, and death itself.

Go in the name of the Son, that has come to reign, to save the lost, and to destroy the Foes of God.

Go in the name and power of the HS, that will help you steward your life to make kingdom impacts now increasing your joy through your future rewards.