

Parable of the Investors' Group

Luke 19¹¹⁻²⁷

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- What is the best investment (of money, time, or effort) that you can recall making?
- What is the worst investment (of money, time, or effort) that you can recall making?

Introduction

We live in a world that talks a lot about money and possessions so it should not surprise us that many of Jesus' parables made reference to, or revolved around, people's attitudes and actions in regards to money and possessions. In Luke 19 Jesus weaves together the twin themes of stewardship and salvation and challenges us to understand and embrace the connection between them.

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Luke 19:11-27.** Where is Jesus traveling from (v.1) and to (v.11) when he tells this parable? What response(s) will he get on his arrival there (vv.37-39)?
- 2) Where does the man of noble birth go? Why?
- 3) What does the nobleman give each of his servants before he leaves? What are his servants supposed to do while he is away?
- 4) When King Herod died, his Archelaus (see Mt. 2 for references to both) went to Rome hoping to be appointed king. The people of Judea hated him and sent a delegation to Rome to oppose him. When Archelaus returned with royal power he exacted judgment on his enemies. What elements of the Archelaus story do you see in Jesus' parable? How is Jesus like and unlike the nobleman in his parable?
- 5) When the nobleman returned as king and called for his servants what did his review of the first two servants reveal? How does he respond to them and why?
- 6) What does the king's review of the third servant reveal? How does he respond to him and why? How would you characterize the king's response in verse 27 (just like God, nothing like God, or somewhat like God)?
- 7) What is the point of the parable according to verse 26?
- 8) What additional point could Jesus be making in through verses 14, 27 and his impending arrival in Jerusalem as God's appointed king?
- 9) When Jesus saw the dramatic Ebenezer Scrooge like change in Zacchaeus' *stewardship* (19⁸), he announced that "Today *salvation* has come to this house." (19⁹) How does our stewardship (i.e. what we do with our time, talent, treasure) show how saved we really are (i.e. who we are serving and what kind of servant we are)?
- 10) Who (or what) has been an inspiring example of faithful stewardship and godly service for you?

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Parable of the Ten Minas

¹¹While 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. ¹²He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.^[a] ‘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. ²¹I 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? ²³Why 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. ²⁷But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”