

Luke 18:15-17 Jesus says, "Let the little children come"

Point --- Jesus loves the simple desire and joy of a child's faith

Luke 18: 18-30 Jesus teaches that the "rich" may look to and depend upon their riches rather than Jesus

Point – BE CAREFUL

Luke 18:31-34 Jesus predicts his pending sacrifice & death

Luke 18:35-42 Jesus Heals the Blind Beggar

Point --- Our God-enabled faith opens our lives for the touch of Jesus

Luke 19: 1-10 Jesus invites himself to lunch with Zacchaeus

Point --- true conversion, leads to sorrow and a desire to make amends.

Luke 19:11-26 Parable of the Nobleman & the 10 Minas

REFLECTIONS:

What "gifts" has God entrusted you?

How may we encourage one another to the PRODUCTIVE use of our gifts?

SUMMARY:

1. Are you PREPARED & READY for Jesus to come again?
2. Are you RESPONSIBLE?
3. Are you PRODUCTIVE?
 - NOT WASTEFUL, but EFFECTIVE
 - NOT FOOLISH, but MINDFUL
 - NOT OBLIGATED, but WANTING
4. Are you ACCOUNTABLE?

GOD ENTRUSTS US WITH HIS DIVINE GIFTS & MISSION TO PREPARE THE WORLD FOR THE ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KoG THROUGHOUT ALL THE WORLD --- ARE YOU INVESTED?

A PRAYER: DEAR GOD, Please give us a new vision and a genuine sense of our divine potential. Help us to see how generously you have invested in us. Forgive us when we minimize and even deny & waste your investment in us ... please HELP US to grasp and maintain a special sense of PURPOSE, HOPE & EXPECTATIONS to see the KoG grow & flourish --- in our lives, our families, our communities, our church, and our world. In Jesus Name, AMEN

8-25-19 PARABLES OF JESUS #9 *THE PARABLE OF THE 10 MINAS* I Need TO DO BETTER – HOW ABOUT YOU? Luke 19:11-26

As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem for the last time, Jesus was trying to help his disciples understand about the future coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus explained that the ultimate fulfillment of God's rule would not be immediate but rather sometime off. However, with his coming victory over sin & death ... God was going to plant seeds of the KoG into the hearts of those who became committed followers and believers in JESUS.

JESUS EXPLAINED: The arrival of the KoG over all the earth would not occur until Jesus comes again to establish God's ultimate rule and authority over all the earth. IN THE MEANTIME, God was going to ENTRUST TO JESUS' FOLLOWERS THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEN FURTHERMORE ASSIGN TO THEM THE OPPORTUNITY, PRIVILEGE and RESPONSIBILITY OF CULTIVATING AND GROWING THE KINGDOM OF GOD NOT ONLY IN THEIR LIVES BUT THEN INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES & EVEN INTO ALL THE WORLD !!!

WOW --- PRETTY HEAVY STUFF!!!

So, while the disciples were praying for and EXPECTING Jesus to establish an earthly, political kingdom that would bring immediate relief from the Roman Empire's political oppression ... Jesus was preparing them for the long-haul. No outward relief from political or other worldly oppressions and evils ... BUT RATHER a NEW HEART AND SOUL ENABLED & EMPOWERED – CHANGED & TRANSFORMED BY THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT---

Jesus wanted to prepare them for what was to come ... and to encourage them to remain faithful --- even if the circumstances and the time-frame seemed hopelessly contrary.

God over all ... was not going to happen that week or that year... it would not occur UNTIL Jesus comes again ... and in the meantime, Jesus was preparing his followers not only to understand and expect this --- BUT TO "KEEP THE FAITH" and then to ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OF NURTURING AND CULTIVATING a MOST SPECIAL GIFT!

Jesus was preparing the disciples to receive the gifts of the Kingdom of God and then to care for these gifts ... to value these gifts, to cultivate and grow these divine gifts and to invest them to help others know the KoG.

Jesus' main point in today's parable is that **we must not forget that Jesus has entrusted us with the indwelling Holy Spirit and with divine gifts that then prepare the world for Jesus' Second Coming.**

THIS TRUST HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US TODAY – TO YOU & ME & TO SHUMC

A BIG RESPONSIBILITY !!! A GREAT HONOR & OPPORTUNITY!!!

Every believer is given gifts, circumstances and opportunities in which Jesus is asking us to REPRESENT HIS INTERESTS ... to ADVANCE HIS CAUSES ... and to GROW & PROTECT HIS CHURCH... WITH THE "GIFTS" THAT HE HAS GIVEN EACH OF US ... WE ARE ALL CALLED TO A PART IN HIS LIFE & WORK.

TODAY's MAIN POINTS:

1. Jesus has entrusted to all of us who call ourselves JESUS FOLLOWERS "GIFTS" of his Spirit, his time, his treasures, and his talents. In turn he EXPECTS us to enjoy these gifts but also to use them to GROW his interests, his causes, & his family here on planet earth until he comes again.
2. Jesus has promised to come again and then, at that time, to overcome all evil and to usher in the ultimate Kingdom of God over all the earth ... with no more pain or sorrow ... no more evil ... not more tears ... where all things will be made right.
3. Jesus' parable is meant to remind & encourage all of Jesus' followers that we're RESPONSIBLE for WHAT WE DO and HOW WE DO IT...to be his ambassadors here on earth and to do our part to help grow the family of God ... the church.
4. We are accountable to Jesus for how we use our gifts.
5. Our motivation should not be one of fear or obligation (if so, we may not understand Jesus properly) BUT RATHER ... our motivation ought to be one of OPPORTUNITY, EXPECTATION & PROMISE ... BECAUSE "WE WANT TO" NOT BECAUSE WE MUST - we're to savor, enjoy and increase the seeds of KoG.

LUKE 19:11-26 The Parable of the 10 Minas:

¹¹ 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.'

TEXT & CONTEXT:

- Last recorded parable in Luke, before "Palm Sunday"
- 10 Minas = approximately 3 months wages
- Note: Herod's son --- Archelaus just returned from Rome

Note How Luke sets this up:

Luke 17:20-37 Jesus shares with his disciples about the coming of the KoG

Point --- Don't be surprised when Jesus comes again --- BE READY!

Luke 18:1-8 Parable of the Persistent Widow

Point --- Keep the faith!

Luke 18:9-14 Parable of the Self-Righteous Pharisee & Tax Collector

Point --- God loves the humble and honest heart