

The Parable of the Minas

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 19:11-27 ¹¹ Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ¹² Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³ "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' ¹⁴ "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.' ¹⁵ "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶ "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' ¹⁷ "And he said to him, 'Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' ¹⁹ "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.' ²⁰ "Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. ²¹ 'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' ²² "And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, *you* wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. ²³ 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that 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 him who has ten minas.' ²⁵ ("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.') ²⁶ 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ²⁷ 'But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay *them* before me.'"

Why Did Jesus Tell this Parable?

Because Jesus wanted his disciples to know that his kingdom would not come immediately as some thought (Luke 19:9-11).

If the parable is to show that his kingdom would not come immediately, then the nobleman in the parable is representing Jesus.

What Does this Parable Illustrate?

This parable is intended to show what must be done while you wait for God's kingdom to be established and Jesus to be made King.

V.12 -- The nobleman goes far away to receive a kingdom, and there is the appearance of a delay in the nobleman receiving a kingdom.

Note: Jesus goes far away—to heaven! Jesus is a king of a kingdom, but it is not manifested immediately to the world.

Matthew 28:18 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Revelation 12:7-12 ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

What Are the Nobleman's Servants to Do While Waiting for the Return of the Nobleman?

V.13 -- He tells his servants, in effect, identify yourself in this land as my servants, use my resources, carry on my business, do what I would do while I am gone until I return.

V.14 – A choice is made while he is gone. Many declare that they do not want the nobleman as their ruler. There is political unrest in the land concerning the nobleman. **Are the servants willing to be identified with the unpopular nobleman who is far away and not openly the ruler?**

Note: Christians in the world place their allegiance in Jesus, the "far-away" King they expect to return to rule His kingdom. Non-believers don't think of Jesus as King and that displays that they are enemies of the King. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world, including those who would reject him. Their rejection of God's grace makes them enemies.

What Are Some of the Servants Doing While Waiting for the Return of the Nobleman?

VV.15-23 – Most of the nobleman's servants earned an increase with what the nobleman gave them, but one did not.

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain.

Titus 2:11¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

James 2:26²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Points:

1. Faithfulness is the first quality judged.
2. We are given something from Jesus and He expects an increase.

3. Living like Jesus is King while he is away and His Kingdom is not manifested is faithfulness.
4. Each faithful servant identified their resources as belonging to the nobleman, not their own.
5. Acting like the one who gives us what we have in a world that opposes the one who gives determines faithful.
6. The unfaithful servant had a misconception of the nobleman that was similar to his enemy's perception.
7. If the unfaithful servant was afraid, why did he not act in some way that would have been consistent with his fear?
8. Are there people who say they are Christians but don't act like Christians or do what Christians are called to do? Faith without works is dead!
9. Christ died for the sins of the whole world. The grace of God was extended to all people. Those who reject the grace of God make themselves enemies of God and of His kingdom.