

LUKE Lesson 49

The Parable of the Ten Pounds (19:11-27)

10 May 2019

In this passage, Jesus plainly “**spake a parable**” (vs 11). In this case, He used an actual event that took place in their recent history; the appointment of Archelaus as the political leader (Herod) of Samaria, Judaea, and Idumea (Edom) 4 B.C. to 6 A.D. In the parable Jesus is obviously making reference the Jews’ rejection of Him as their ruler, His journey to Heaven, and His return in authority. Those of us who did not reject Him are represented by the “servants” in this story. Today we’ll find out what the Lord expects of His servant’s in His absence. He’s given each of us a talent. He expects us to use our talents to make money to further His causes.

Vs 12 “**A certain nobleman**” represents Jesus Christ. “**A far country**” represents His ascension up to Heaven. He’ll establish a literal kingdom upon His return to Earth (Second Coming).

Vs 13 “**Ten servants**” identifies this as a Church-Age parable taking place during the time of the Gentiles. (Ten is the number of the Gentiles).

The Lord’s servants are commanded to “**Occupy till I come.**” Christians are an “army of occupation,” left in place to ensure that the devil doesn’t reclaim any ground that the Lord gained in His victory on Calvary’s cross (Rev 11:15). The occupying army doesn’t settle in and try to make the place they’re guarding their home.

Vs 14 “**His citizens hated him**” (John 1:11). Jesus came to His own people (the Jews) and they did not receive Him. They said, “**We will not have this man to reign over us;**” “**We have no king but Caesar!**” (Jn 19:15)

Vs 15 “**When he was returned**” (Second Coming) “**he commanded these servants to be called unto him**” (indicates a definite personal accounting at the Judgment Seat of Christ).

16-17 The first man: 1 pound gained 10 pounds. The Lord’s response: “**Well!**” (Very good!) You were faithful in a very little (no job is too small for the faithful servant!), you will rule over ten cities (because you can be trusted).

18-19 The second man: 1 pound gained 5 pounds. The Lord’s response: no commendation this time. You’ll rule over five cities. I wonder, have I done my best for Jesus? Will I be praised for my faithfulness?

Vs 20 The third man: 1 pound gained nothing. The Lord’s response: strong rebuke, loss of reward.

This man was playing it safe. He’s like a monk living in a monastery keeping himself pure, but not doing anything for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord knows you’ll probably mess up when you step out and try to serve Him, but that’s what He expects you to do. When you mess up, don’t quit; try to do better next time (Prov 24:16).

This “**gain**” is not limited to winning souls to Jesus Christ. It includes leading new Christians to spiritual maturity (discipleship), counselling families, training children, helping others, etc.

Vs 21 His excuse: “I feared thee...” The fear of the Lord is proper (Lev 25:17, Deut 6:2, 1 Sam 12:24, Ps 33:8, 111:10). But the servant of the Lord shouldn’t be paralyzed by the fear of losing their relationship with God or being cast into outer darkness, etc.

“I feared thee, because thou art an austere man...” (severe, stern, rigid). He was afraid to take any chances for the Lord. The Lord is teaching us that any effort we make is better than doing nothing. God can’t guide you if you’re not moving (Gen 24:27). The Lord will direct your STEPS (Prov 3:6).

Vs 22 His judgment: this man’s heart produced the excuses that he spoke (Mt 12:34). His heart condition will be the basis of his judgment. The Lord called him wicked, though he didn’t do anything. His sin was the sin of omission (James 4:17, Lk 10:30-37, Mt 25:44-45). This man was told to occupy, and he didn’t.

Vs 23 Lessons on money. It is not sinful to have money or to save money and collect interest on it. While we live in this world, we need to use it, but not abuse it (1 Cor 7:31). The more money we earn, the more we’ll be able to use for God’s causes.

Usury (charging interest on a loan) is permitted among the general public (strangers). But you are not to charge a brother interest (Deut 23:19-20). We are allowed to use the system of usury or interest to our advantage.

24-25 The Lord’s capitalistic principle: a man that works for money and uses it wisely is entitled to more money. A man who is lazy and won’t work deserves to have his money or property taken from him. (2 Thess 3:10).

Vs 26 Seeing that the Lord is an austere man (He didn’t deny it), we would do well to agree with him and try our best to do what He says. You reap what you sow (2 Cor 9:6, Gal 6:7). This man didn’t sow anything. He ended up with nothing (no rewards).

Vs 27 The judgment of Christ rejectors. They’ll be slain before the Lord (vs 27), they’ll go away to everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46), burned (Matthew 13:29-30), and cast into a furnace of fire (Matthew 13:47-50).

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