

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Luke 19:11-27

Introduction:

This morning I begin a new series of sermons and teachings that deal with How God is so Generous to us, and How we should respond to His generosity.

In my first sermon I want us to focus on the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ will some day come.

He came the first time according to the promises of the Old Testament. Jesus came as the promised Messiah, the Son of God.

The Bible tells us that someday He will come again to bring it all to completion, Paul was explicit when he said Jesus will come with the sound of the trumpet and the shout of the arch angel that will be heard around the world.

The basis of this parable settles in during the time that Jesus was here on this earth.

We find the false expectations that the people had with Jesus.

This particular passage centered around what we call Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and then the Resurrection Sunday what we call Easter.

On this particular day, Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem for the Passover and it seems that **many believed, even some of his disciples believed that He was going to establish His kingdom immediately.**

Now I remind you that these people were still looking for a political Messiah.

As the Passover commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage, many felt that Jesus would be crowned King at Jerusalem and He

would raise an army, and deliver them from the Romans, and reestablish the kingly line of David. Now if you were a Jew this was vital.

The apostles dreamed of sitting on the right and left hand of His Kingdom. I mean after all – if you were close to Jesus – wouldn't you think He would pick you to have that position. Sometimes we have inflated egos don't we?

Jesus told this story/this parable in answer to their false expectations - **to establish the fact that there would be a period of time before the Kingdom would be restored.**

He begins the parable – referring to a king who would go away, and then one day he would return and set up his kingdom.

Prior to his ascension back into heaven, the disciples asked him. *“Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

You see they still did not fully understand His mission. Several times He explained and they just wasn't getting it.

Sometimes I wonder if we here really and truly understand what Jesus is telling us. Sometimes I wonder if I'm getting it the way Jesus meant it to be.

I wonder sometimes if we understand the consequences of not doing what Jesus has given us to do.

Well, with that said, let me begin my sermon:

I. THE RECEIVING OF A KINGDOM verse 12

“He told His disciples: ‘A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.”

This story is based upon an historical event some years earlier.

At the death of Herod the Great, his son Archelaus had to undertake a long journey *“to receive his kingly power.”*

He could not be king in Judea until his claims had been ratified by the government in Rome.

Because of his unpopularity, a deputation of his subjects went to Rome to complain against his kingship.

Of course the “**nobleman**” in this story represents our Lord Jesus Christ.

He was on the way to Jerusalem where he would be rejected, crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.

Moreover, He would return to heaven for an undisclosed period of time and then He would return to set up His kingdom.

Many ask this question, “Is the kingdom present or is it future?” The answer is both.

First: The Kingdom has been present since the first coming of Jesus until right now. We’re in His Kingdom.

Many of Jesus’ parables illustrate the growth of the kingdom.

The kingdom began small with a 120 in the Upper Room as recorded in Acts 1 and has been growing ever since.

Yet there is coming a day when the King will come again and bring this age to its triumphant conclusion.

II. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SERVANTS OF THE KING. Verse 13

We followers of Jesus Christ have been given a great responsibility during this interim time between His ascension and his return.

He tells us what we are to be doing till He gets back.

The KJV says, “*Occupy till I come.*”

“*Do business until I come*” (NKJV).

In our text today Jesus said, “*Put this money to work until I come back.*” (NIV).

It could very well be translated, *“Take care of my business until I come back.”*

"A pastor tells of standing by his father's tombstone and reading the words, "Born 1884 - Died 1970."

It suddenly occurred to him how much the little dash between those two dates symbolized".

You see – now get this – It's what we do in our lives with the talents that God has entrusted to us that determines how much or how little is represented between the dashes.

That is the part of the responsibility that is up to each one of us.

We are responsible for what we do with the dashes between the dates of our birth and death that will appear on our tombstone.

You see – look at it this way – when Jesus died on the cross and arose again from the tomb and resurrected into heaven there's a dash between then and when He comes again.

That dash is us. We are a part of the Dash.

The dash represents the Church age until He comes again.

So - what is the business that we are suppose to be doing during the “Dash time” until Jesus comes again?

Now would you agree with me that until Jesus gets back, we who believe in Him are subjects/servants of His Kingdom and **we are involved in the preparation for the return of our King. Have you thought of it that way?**

Our job is not to speculate on the timing of His return, but on the preparation of His return.

We are to prepare our hearts for the coming of the King and we are to endeavor to prepare other lost hearts for His coming.

Let me explain it to you like this:

You will find in your lesson this week as you study it **what we have been entrusted with:**

1) Every one of us are given the same amount of time in our lives.

This is the story of the faithful and evil servant - God gives us the time we need to accomplish His will – it's our choice then how it's used.

In Matthew 24:45-51 you will read: NLT

45 “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. 46 If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. 47 I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. 48 But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ 49 and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? 50 The master will return unannounced and unexpected, 51 and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

2) The Second resource is our Talents: This is today's text.

3) The Third resource is our Treasure: Luke 16:10-12

Here we find God compares trustworthy handling of this world's wealth to our fitness for handling the greater riches of His Kingdom.

Listen to what He says from the New Living Testament:

10 “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?

12 And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?

So here God puts the handling of our money in the context of whether we can be trusted with more.

So the Spiritual Lesson is this:

Each and every one of us have been given each of these three things:

- 1. Time**
- 2. Talent**
- 3. Treasure**

They have been entrusted to us

What we need to do is make the decision to use them.

Now let me go back to where I was and say –

Whether, Jesus returns before this year is over or in the next few months or weeks, or during the next year, or even 100 years, we are to be involved in fulfilling our Lord's purpose.

It says in verse 15, ***“He was made King and returned home.”***

Jesus is King and He will return again! We don't know when he will come again, but we do know one thing, Jesus is already King.

In the verses prior 19:1-9, **Jesus had just transformed the life of a Publican whose name was Zacchaeus.**

Then in verse 10, Jesus stated the purpose of His coming into the world. ***“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”***

“Seeking and saving the lost” was His mission and that has to be our mission.

In order to do that, the king gave each servant **one mina which equals about three months wages.**

He said, ***“I am going away, but you take care of my business until I come again.”***

III. THE REJECTION OF THE KING - verse 14

It seems that some people are not happy about the fact that Jesus Christ should be our king.

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

Many of the Jews refused to believe in Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

Moreover, down through the ages, wherever the gospel has been proclaimed, there have been those who received Jesus but there have been those who said, ***“We will not have this man rule over us.”***

The day will come when ***“every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”***

Yet in the present, many in our nation refuse our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. S. Lewis says:

"I am trying to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make a choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."
(C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

And tragically, many reject Jesus as their king.

They refuse to let Him rule over them.

Listen to our Lord's indictment on those who reject him. ***“And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*** (John 3:19).

John commented, *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* (Jn. 3:36).

Jesus said to those religious leaders who refused him, *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life”* (John 5:39-40).

IV. THE RETURN OF THE KING.

When the King comes back to reign it will be a time of answerability.

Believers will face the Lord at the **“BEMA”** or **The Judgment seat of Christ.**

Those who reject Christ will face him at the **Great White Throne Judgment.**

That Judgment Day is coming for all us.

He will provide even greater blessings for each of His believers. Let’s see from our text what He means:

A. Reward for the faithful (15-19).

One servant took the one mina that Jesus had given him and turned it in to 10.

What do we mean by faithfulness? What does Jesus mean when He says to be faithful?

Jesus said to all us, “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death” (REVELATION 2:10b,11).

Of course, we do not have to wait until the Last Day to realize that we have been given blessings.

Each of have been given minas as it were, gifts of faith.

Each one of us have different gifts.

Each of us have really more than one spiritual gift, probably a good number.

Because we are believers, the Lord gives them out of His grace just like this nobleman.

We don't deserve to have any gifts at all, but the Lord gives them to us.

We don't deserve to be sitting in God's presence with the understanding that we are saved.

But by grace the Lord saves us!

So what can we do now until the Judgment Day?

The Day when our King will return and ask us what we have done with all those gifts He has given us?

Again, in Revelation, our Kings says to be faithful.

When we look at our society, we are to look at our gifts and see how we can use them, not for ourselves, but for someone else.

One of the great downfalls or flaws in our society today is that everyone looks out for himself and tries to use all his blessings he gets for himself.

As believers, you and I have the gift to understand that the blessings we have are indeed God's gifts.

Gifts we are to use for others, for their benefit.

We are to look to the interest of our neighbors and not our own interests.

Peter tells us: *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"*(1 PETER 4:10)

In our lesson this week you will read what Warren Wiersbe said,

“If life is to have meaning, and if God’s will is to be done, all of us have to accept who we are and what we are, give it back to God, and thank Him for the way He made us. What I am is God’s gift to me; what I do with it is my gift back to Him.”

Believer friend, listen to me, we have been given so much. And God has requires that we be faithful with what He has allowed us to have.

So the first thing we need to understand is that it is God’s resources, not ours, which enables us to give to humanity.

When the servant took the Mina and turned it into 10 mina’s for His master, the master said, ***“Well done, my good servant, because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, I will make you ruler over ten cities.”***

To the next servant in this parable, who had gained five mina’s, the master responded very much like to the first servant, he simply put him in charge of five cities. He said, ***“I will make you ruler over five cities.”***

B. Rebuke for the unfruitful (20-26).

We look forward to that day when He comes back; because when the Lord returns as the Righteous Judge, He will be our heavenly King, which we will understand by faith.

Our King will then give us the fulfillment of all earthly blessings in eternal life.

But our King will also return as the King to bring punishment upon those who have been unfaithful. He refers to them as His enemies. This seems to me harsh, but this is Jesus’ parable.

Remember towards the beginning of this parable, the nobleman went out to be king and in an act of very magnanimous generosity, he gives very large gifts to his servants.

But in the midst of that we are told: 14 ***“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’***

Again, we think of Jesus. Jesus stands beside Pilate and with Barabbas when Pilate says to the crowd, ***"Who should I set free, Jesus who has done nothing wrong or Barabbas who is a criminal?" The crowd says, "We want Barabbas. We do not want this Jesus to be our king. Crucify Him."***

In this parable we hear the faithful servants and we hear the servant who probably could fit into this delegation that did not like his master.

We are told: 20 ***"Then another servant came and said, `Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. Some translations have that he wrapped it in a napkin or handkerchief. If you look in commentaries, they will tell you that that napkin or handkerchief was the cloth he was to use to wipe his face when he sweat from working for his master. We find that the servant isn't doing anything for his master. He doesn't even have to use that sweat cloth, because he is not sweating in labor for the master. We see too that he hides it away trying to point to the master as the one who is at fault rather than he. This servant says: 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.'***

The servant judges his master and the servant describes him as a hard man meaning he is not generous but stingy.

Yet, when we look at these ten minas that he gives, we discover the very opposite.

A mina consisted of one hundred drachmas. A drachma was a day's wages. If we multiply that out, one hundred days wages times ten gives us a thousand, doesn't it?

When the master left, he gave these servants who didn't deserve a thing almost three months wages as a gift.

Yet, this servant comes and says, ***"You are a hard man."***

What is the Master's response? What is going to be the result?

22"His master replied, `I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! The master says, "You call me a hard man. You are going to face hard punish-ment. You are going to see the hardness not of me but of your own hardness of heart." The master tells him: 23Why then didn't you put

my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ This servant did not do one thing with that money. If he had done at least just one thing, it would have been better than nothing. So the master commands those standing by to take away his mina and give it to the others. They think that is unfair. What does the master say? 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 he has will be taken away.’

What was wrong? This servant had hardened his heart.

He did not see the generosity of his king.

So that little bit he had which wasn’t much, which he didn’t think was much at all, was taken away.

On the Last Day, the Judgment Day those who have no faith have only earthly blessings and those will be taken away.

They will seem to have even less, but they didn’t have anything to begin with.

At the end he says in verse 27: *27 “**But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them--bring them here and kill them in front of me.**”* It sounds harsh. It doesn’t even sound like something Jesus would say.

Yet what is going to happen on the Last Day?

The righteous go to heaven; the unbelievers or unrighteous, the enemies of Christ, go to eternal destruction called Hell.

This pictures very accurately the Last Day.

Those enemies of Christ who harden their hearts and would not heed what Jesus commanded them, who had no use for Christ on earth, certainly will feel left out on the Last Day.

But they had no use for Christ on earth, so why would they have any use for Him in heaven?

And folks, that sounds so harsh, but that is the reality of Jesus coming as the Heavenly King.

There are two ways Jesus returns, isn't it?

1) He is going to return for believers as our heavenly King who were found faithful, and we will find joy and rejoicing.

2) But for the unbelievers, they will see Jesus as the Righteous Judge/judging the nations.

Philippians tells us this: *Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things"* (PHILIPPIANS 3:18b19).

We can easily say that the world is exactly like that.

Their mind is on earthly things.

We also know in our day-to-day living, maybe, too often our mind is on earthly things.

Maybe from time to time, we forget that the Lord is going to return.

Jesus will return as the righteous Judge with judgment on His enemies.

Jesus is also going to return as our King with blessings for His believers.

One servant hid the mina.

He didn't lose it, but he did nothing with it.

He had the same opportunity to invest and didn't do anything with it.

What is the lesson we should be learning from this?

We see a Master who gave abundantly to his servants.

To every one of us God gives us hope of and the Gift of Eternal Life.

To every one of us God gives us an equal opportunity to serve Him.

To every one of us God gives us the Gift of the Holy Spirit to accomplish His purpose for His world through us.

To every one of us God gives us what the Bible refers to as Spiritual Gifts.

To every one of us God gives us the passion when the Holy Spirit comes in His fullness to want to see the unsaved come to Jesus Christ.

C. Retribution for the foolish (27)

“Bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.”

Matthew Henry said, **“Whoever will not be ruled by the grace of Christ will inevitably be ruined by the wrath of Christ.”**

CONCLUSION:

As I have said, I am not on the date setting committee for the return of Jesus Christ.

I am on the preparation committee.

However, I will say this, we are closer to the coming of the King than we have ever been before.

“Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.”

The question you must answer is this, **“Are you ready for the return of the King?”**

Now many of you are fascinated with the novels that relate to the rapture of the church, and the great tribulation, and the wrath of God.

The one thing about those stories that bothers me is that they seem to say that people will have another opportunity to be saved after the church is gone.

I am afraid that many are putting off coming to Christ because they believe they will have another chance to be saved.

Don't misunderstand me.

God is sovereign and can do anything He wants to do.

It's just that you and I are not guaranteed tomorrow.

Today is the day of salvation.

This is your moment.

This is the day the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart.

Don't wait another second to repent of your sins and by faith receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior.

The King is Coming.

Are you ready?

Are you helping others to get ready?

What will be our answer to Him on the Last Day when we stand before Him as He judges us for what we have done?