

w e e k 22: *the one with the returning king*

NOTE: This is the last study guide in the Jesus unplugged series. The next set of study guides will appear April 5 for the new series on Paul's letter to Titus.

Scripture to Read: Luke 19:11-27

11 As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. 12 He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. 13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' 14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 15 When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. 16 The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' 17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' 18 And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' 19 And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' 20 Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' 22 He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and 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 the one who has the ten minas.' 25 And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' 26 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 27 But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

Summary of the Text

Approaching Jerusalem for the last time, Jesus tells a kingdom parable. The kingdom has arrived in the person of Jesus but has a provisional form until he returns and settles all accounts and establishes his kingdom forever.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. –Luke 19:26

Questions for Personal Study and/or Group Discussion

- Compare this parable with Jesus' telling of it in Matthew 25. What similarities and differences do you detect?
- What does the parable teach us about individual initiative in the way we live as servants of God?
- What does the parable tell us about having a right view of God if we are to be productive servants in God's Kingdom?
- What does Jesus mean in v.26 about those who "have" receiving more?
- What do the returning king's rewards teach us about Christ's distribution of rewards to his loyal servants? In what ways does this show his grace in abundance?
- Will there be "rewards" in heaven? What kind of rewards, if any, do you think there will be? Does this negate the idea of salvation by grace alone? Should we be motivated now by the promise of future rewards? Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 as you consider your answers.
- Why was the one servant condemned? What was his real problem?
- How does this parable challenge you to live more boldly and faithfully for Jesus?

Thoughts worth thinking

End of the journey: This parable concludes Luke's account of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (begun in 9:51). It is distinct from the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:14–30**, since most of the key elements

are different, but there are also some similarities in wording. In his preaching and teaching Jesus would sometimes modify his teachings to fit different situations and emphasize different truths.

ARTHUR: Be quiet! I order you to be quiet!

WOMAN: Order, eh -- who does he think he is?

ARTHUR: I am your king!

WOMAN: Well, I didn't vote for you.

ARTHUR: You don't vote for kings.

WOMAN: Well, 'ow did you become king then?

-[from Monty Python and the Holy Grail]

In v.12 Jesus refers to a nobleman going off to a far country to receive credentials for ruling as a king. This action has a historical reference point that Jesus' hearers would have remembered. Archelaus, the son of Herod the Great, traveled to Rome after his father's death in 4 BC to secure his crown (Remember that Judea was a Roman province.). He was followed by a delegation of Jews who protested his investiture to the Emperor. They apparently had no desire to live under another Herod. The delegation was heard, but their protest was denied, and Archelaus returned to claim his kingdom against the will of a number of his citizens.

What is a mina? Minas were about three months' wages for a laborer, about 100 drachmas.

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: *Since the study guide came out on Tuesday, I'm leaving Monday blank.*

Tuesday: Explain that in this story, God is like the Master and we are his servants. The nobleman gave his servants money, and God has given us many things. God created each of us with special gifts, and he expects us to use those gifts for the purpose for which he gave them to us. You can use a Frisbee to explain something important about talents and gifts. Ask your child to pretend that you do not know what it is and that you have never seen one before. You might think it was a dinner plate... or a hat... or perhaps a tool for digging

in the sand. It could be just about anything, but it isn't. It is a Frisbee and the person who created the Frisbee created it for a purpose. The purpose of a Frisbee is to fly! In a world full of high-tech electronic toys, it is not very impressive. But it can fly! Sometimes we may look at the talents that God has given to others and think that God hasn't given us very much. We might even be tempted to hide our talent. But when we use our God-given talent to be all that God intended for us to be... boy, can we fly!

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Some of the citizens in that kingdom did not want the nobleman to be their king. Some people do not want Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Pray for people who don't want Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Pray that our church can reach them and that God would soften their hard hearts.

Friday: Ask your children what they would like to do (e.g. read a story, pray, sing worship songs, etc.) and then do that with them.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children, or have them read a story to you if they are old enough. Pray that Phillip will have boldness in preaching the Word of God tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday. **Please remember to pray for the Bible Conference, March 26-28.**

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their Sunday School teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.