

Luke 19

Know Your Master

Objectives

- Understand the implications of the Parable of the Ten Minas in Jesus' time and in our own
- See how our understanding of God and His character can affect our actions and desire to be obedient to Him
- Remember that our standing with God is based only on our belief in Christ and not our actions

Steps To Prepare (For Leaders)

- Read all of Luke 19, paying special attention to the Parable of the Ten Minas (vv.11-27)
- Think through, and if helpful, make a list of who the characters in the parable represent in Jesus' time to reference during the study if needed
- Pray for your group and for your time together

? When you borrow something from someone (e.g. car, book, tools, etc.) in what condition do you usually return it (e.g. empty or full gas tank, in a timely manner, etc.)? Does this change depending on whom you are borrowing it from?

Read Out Loud: Luke 19:11-27 (NIV)

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.'

Luke 19:12

To receive for himself a kingdom means to receive authority over a kingdom. The kingdom that he is going to receive is not the far country to which he is traveling but the land from which he started out. Into a "far country" implies that the return of the nobleman (i.e., the second coming of the Son of Man) will not take place immediately. -ESV Study Bible

One mina was equivalent to about one hundred days of an average working wage. -Darrell L. Bock, *The Luke NIV Application Commentary*

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. 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.’”

Questions for Discussion

? What does it mean that the people listening to the parable thought that “the kingdom of God was going to appear at once” (vs.11)?

Possible Answer: Jesus addresses the Jews who are expecting Jesus to act as a political messiah, one who would overthrow the Romans and bring Israel into power again right away.

? In this parable, the man with noble birth represents Jesus. How does the way Jesus will become king (vs.13) differ from the way the people expect Him to become king (vs.11)?

Possible Answer: Jesus will leave and return to reign fully as king on earth as opposed to immediately overthrowing the Romans and claiming earthly power now.

? Why does the third servant do nothing with the mina he has been given?

Possible Answer: Because the master was a hard man, and he was afraid of him.

? Based on how the master treats the first two servants, is what the third servant says about the master being unfair in verse 21 accurate? What does this imply about the third servant’s knowledge of the master?

Possible Answer: No, the master is generous and gracious to the first two servants. This implies that the third servant does not know his master well or is making an excuse for his own failure.

? If the third servant did nothing with his mina because he had an incorrect view of the master who gave it to him, what does this parable show about the connection between our relationship with someone and our actions or obedience toward them?

Possible Answer: We are less likely to obey or respect someone we don't know or don't have a relationship with. The more we get to know God, the more we understand what it looks like to obey him and the deeper our desire to obey him will be.

? Can you think of a time when a misunderstanding of who God is and what He is like has influenced the way you've acted or led to disobedience?

Possible Answer: Times where it doesn't seem like God is good and only has my best interest in mind. Or times after I sin and I think he is going to punish me for my wrong actions.

? In verse 26, Jesus says "but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away." What did the Pharisees think they had in terms of their standing with God and why? How would Jesus eventually take what they thought they had away?

Possible answer: They thought they were saved or in a right standing with God simply because they were descendants of Abraham. Jesus is "taking away" what they thought they had as a birthright, when in reality it is about faith.

For Discussion and Accountability

? What things do we base our standing with God on that would be considered 'nothing' in Jesus' eyes?

? In what ways do our actions show us to be like the subjects in verse 14: "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king'?"

For Further Reading:

Luke 19: 1-10; Luke 19: 28-48