

Introduction

Priorities in 2019

- Based on a prayer meeting recorded
- **Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Together in prayer and worship

- We must spend time... together seeking the Lord
- They were together - and God moved
- We must come together to seek the Lord
- Currently meeting on Wednesday evenings for prayer

Ministry empowered by the Spirit

- From that gathering, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the mission field
- In 2019 - every believer filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit
- In 2019 - every believer used for ministry in the gifts of the Spirit

Active in the great commission

- Outcome of that prayer meeting - Christianity spread among the entire region
- When the Spirit is using us, we will fulfill the great commission

This message

Familiar parable

- We know the story
- Take a bible and find it Luke 19:11-27

Interpreted often, different ways

- We've all heard this parable preached

- Different things emphasized: what do we do with what the Lord gave, etc.
- As I read it recently, I was struck with **Time** and what do we do with it.

Message

Context: v11

- **Luke 19:11 (ESV)** (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.*
- He's near to Jerusalem - they are expecting him to overthrow the Roman government
- See the next section - Triumphal entry
- Jesus is going to tell this parable to illustrate three truths:
 - He won't come as king for a long time
 - His servants are to be busy while he's gone
 - Those who reject him as king will be destroyed
- As we look through this parable today, I want us to pay particular attention to the role of the servant
- This is the primary emphasis of the parable, and it's application today

The king v12

- **Luke 19:12 (ESV)** (12) *He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.*
- Here we meet the nobleman, to become King
- Far country - this will not happen here
- Far - long time
- Return - will come back... this time as king

Engage in business v13

- **Luke 19:13 (ESV)** (13) *Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'*

- He calls 10 servants - and gives them each a mina
- Unit of weight/currency - could be divided into 50 shekels - about 50 day's wages

What are they supposed to do?

- Engage in business
- They knew the master's work - and they were entrusted to do that work on behalf of the master
- **Note:** this wasn't expense money - i.e. KBR - this was money to be invested and a return expected

What are we supposed to do?

- They knew what their master wanted - they understood his purpose
- What is the Lord's purpose?
- See **Luke 19:10 (ESV)** (10) *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*
- See **Matt 28:19-20 (ESV)** (19) *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
- We have a job to do

When are they supposed to do it?

- They're to work until he returns
- Again - the primary focus of the parable is to the servants of Jesus
- We are to be working until he comes
- See **Matt 24:46 (ESV)** (46) *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.* which is part of a teaching about his return. See **Matt 24:44 (ESV)** (44) *Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

The haters v14

- **Luke 19:14 (ESV)** (14) *But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'*
- Some didn't want him as kin
- Spoken to the religious at the moment - again very prophetic as they're going to

reject him as king - and charge him with that crime **John 19:12 (ESV)** (12) *From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."*

- We aren't going to focus on them specifically - but their end is described in v27 of this passage
- See their end **Luke 19:27 (ESV)** (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."*

His return v15

- **Luke 19:15 (ESV)** (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.*
- Some truths

He will be made king

- He has conquered death, hell and the grave
- He came as the suffering servant - he will return as king of kings and Lord of lords
- Everything will be given to him
- We may not see it now, or want to acknowledge the truth of it - but Jesus is Lord!

He will return

- It's been a long time (far off country), but Jesus will return
- He's gone to prepare a place for us - but he himself has promised to return.
- See **John 14:1-3 (ESV)** (1) *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
- I believe that day is coming very soon!

He will call us into account

- The first thing he does is deal with the servants

- He will deal with the sinners too, but servants first
- Everyone will stand before him
- “What have you gained by doing business”
- That’s the question they’re asked
 - You had my money
 - You knew my agenda
 - You had time while I was away

Those rewarded (v16-19)

- **Luke 19:16-19 (ESV)** *(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.'*
- Ten servants received money
- Three are shown - because the three illustrate the truth of his return
- The first two were rewarded. Let’s see three truths about the reward

Based on their faithfulness

- Faithful in little - faithful in much
- They did what they knew they were supposed to do
- Great time of worship and prayer Wednesday night and the Spirit spoke reminding us it will be worth it all
- **Question:** are we being faithful with the little he’s entrusted to us

The reward was commensurate with their work

- It wasn’t the same reward for each of them
- One had done better than the other at doing the master’s business
- They were rewarded accordingly
- There will be differing rewards in heaven!

Reward was greater than the investment

- Entrusted with a little - rewarded with a lot
- This world is a chance to prove what we’re made of
- Eternity is a chance to receive reward for our faithfulness

- **Point:** It is coming, and it will be worth it.
- **Rev 22:12 (ESV)** (12) *"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done."*

The one who made excuses (v20-21)

- **Luke 19:20-21 (ESV)** (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.'*
- At first glance we almost pity this man... but let's look closer
- According to v13 - what was the task assigned: *engage in business until I come*
- Did this man do any of the master's business? No - instead he tucked his mina away
- **Point:** He used the time the master was away to do what he wanted
- See the excuse: I was afraid of you

His judgment (v22-23)

- **Luke 19:22-23 (ESV)** (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?'*
- The master doesn't tolerate his excuses
- Let's take a look at a couple of truths here

Judged by his words

- The master uses his words as the measuring stick
- We too will be judged by our words.
- Consider **Matt 12:34-37 (ESV)** (34) *You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (35) The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. (36) I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, (37) for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

- Or **James 3:1 (ESV)** (1) *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.* - then goes on to talk about taming the tongue

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He didn't really fear the master

- He claims to have acted in fear of the master
- Yet if he really feared him he would have at least put the money on deposit - doing some business - gaining something
- Instead, he did what he wanted and tried to make excuses
- **Question:** Do we really fear the Lord?
- **Reminder:** No excuses on judgment day

See the punishment (v24-26)

- See the remainder of the parable: **Luke 19:24-26 (ESV)** (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.'*
- As we're faithful - he will add to it - and if we're not, we'll lose it
- **Note:** This man was still a servant to the king! Contrast his end with the wicked

The haters part 2 (v27)

- **Luke 19:27 (ESV)** (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.'*
- Those who reject him as king will be destroyed

Applications

Receive Him as king

- This is the key point: receive him as savior and Lord

- If you're not a servant, but a hater - repent and make peace while their's still time to do so

Get busy doing the work he requires

- For us - there's still time
- We can get busy doing the work he requires
- **Matt 7:21 (ESV)** (21) *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*