

PARABLE OF THE MINAS

Luke 19:11-27

10/19/03

There is no more sensitive topic that we could talk about this morning than about money and giving.

I believe that this is a sensitive topic for at least three reasons.

1. You and I are constantly being bombarded by slick Madison Avenue advertising schemes designed to get our money from us. Sometimes we have been duped and taken in and resent it..
2. Many of us have become skeptical because religious charlatans have played on peoples' emotions and have abused God's people.
3. Sometimes the subject of stewardship is painful because it touches a sensitive issue in our spiritual lives.

Though we never see Jesus soliciting money for Himself, He frequently talked about money.

Jesus knew that money is a key indicator of a person's spiritual condition.

16 of His 38 parables were concerned with how we handle money and possessions.

One in every ten verses in the Gospels (288 in all) deals directly with the subject of money.

How you and I use our money is an important indicator of our spiritual health.

Ben Rogers: When you and I go to a doctor for our annual check-up, he will often begin to poke, prod, and press various places, all the while asking, "Does this hurt? How about this?"

If we cry out in pain, one of two things has happened. Either the doctor has pushed too hard, without the right sensitivity. Or, more likely, there's something wrong, and the doctor will say, "We'd better do some more tests. It's not supposed to hurt there!"

So it is when pastors preach on financial responsibility, and certain of us cry out in discomfort, criticizing the message and the messenger. Either the pastor has pushed too hard. Or perhaps

there's something wrong. In that case we're in need of the Great Physician, because it's not supposed to hurt there."

This week we will look at just one of Jesus' parables on possessions.

The parable of the minas

1. The Parable 19:12-25

12-13 The nobleman entrusts his money to his slaves and goes to a far country to receive a kingdom

13 The slaves are told to wisely invest the nobleman's money until he returns.

- He gave each a mina to use to "do business with" until he returns.
 - ◆ A mina is worth about 100 days wages for a common laborer.
 - ◇ Equivalent to about \$5000 each by today's wages.
 - ◆ He expects for them to use what he has given them to make a profit.
 - ◇ They are each like business managers who are to make money for the owner of a company.
 - ◇ They are to be like investment brokers who use someone else's money to make them more money.

14 The citizens of the country hate him and do not want him to reign over them.

- Send a delegation to communicate this.

15-27 The nobleman returns to reward his slaves and punish his enemies.

- They are rewarded in accordance with what they have earned with their master's money.

2. The Interpretation

- a. **The nobleman represents Christ.**
 - He went to heaven to receive the kingdom and will later return to reward His followers.
- b. **The minas represent the resources Christ has given us.**
 - The God-given resource in this parable is money.
 - ◆ We are held accountable for how we handle the money that God entrusts to us.
- c. **The time when the king is away represents the interim between Christ's ascension and His return.**
 - The present time
- d. **The slaves represent true Christians.**
 - Those who belong to Him.
 - The third slave represents a carnal Christian, who bears no substantive fruit but is saved.
- e. **The rewards are roles in Christ's coming kingdom.**
 - Those who are faithful will be rewarded generously.
 - Their rewards are astounding.- They got entire cities
- f. **The citizens represent the non-Christians.**
 - They do not want Him to rule over them.
 - ◆ The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day
 - ◆ Those today who live on His earth but do not want Him to rule over them.

3. The Application 19:26-27

- a. **Good stewards recognize rightful ownership. cf 1 Chronicles 29:11-12**
 - *Nothing truly belongs to us; everything actually belongs to God*

◆ **1 Chronicles 29:11b-12** "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. "Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

◇ When we are blessed with money and material things we are not getting what we deserve but what God in His love has allowed us to care for.

◇ When we receive recognition or acclaim for an accomplishment, we are not getting what we deserve but what God in His grace lovingly allows us to enjoy.

• ***The essence of life is not ownership but stewardship.***

◆ We tend to think of what we have as our own and that we owe God 10% of our money.

◆ In reality all that you and I are and all we have belongs to God.

◇ We breathe His air.

◇ We eat His plants and animals.

◇ We are expending the life He has given to us.

◇ We are using the minds and physical bodies He entrusted to us.

• ***The essence of life is not ownership, but stewardship.***

◆ Stewardship is the faithful management of all that God entrusts to us.

◇ Whether a lot or a little, whatever comes to us brings with it an undeniable responsibility.

• ***We need to think of ourselves as managers of a trust.***

- ◆ God has entrusted us with time, money, material things, and great opportunities.
 - ◇ He expects us to maximize the investment of all that He has been put into our hands.
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:15-16** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

b. Christians who use their God-given resources well will be given more when Christ returns. v. 26a

- *When Christ returns, we will be rewarded in accordance with how we use what God has entrusted to us .*
 - ◆ Luke 16:9-13
- God expects us to invest the money that he has entrusted to us to reproduce eternity dividends for Him.
 - ◆ **Andrew Murray:** The world asks, "What does a man own?"; Christ asks, "How does he use it?"
- Though the direct application is to money, I believe that the principle of accountability extends beyond money.
 - ◆ We are accountable to the king to manage every thing that he has entrusted to us.
 - ◇ Our lives
 - ◇ Our time
 - ◇ Our gifts and talents
 - ◇ The gospel 1 Thess 2:4; cf 1 Tim 1:11; 6:20; 2 Tim 2:2
 - ◇ **1 Thessalonians 2:4** we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,
 - ◆ Our responsibility while Christ is gone is to faithfully serve Him by using the gifts and responsibilities He has given.

◆ Faithfulness will be rewarded and unfaithfulness will be judged.

◇ There is an opportunity for a great reward, or the chance of losing everything.

c. Christians who do not invest their lives wisely will lose even what they have. v. 26b cf 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

• **1 Cor 3:14-15** If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

◆ The man's works are incinerated, though he himself is saved.

• *The essence of life is not ownership, but stewardship.*

• *How you and I use our money is an important indicator of our spiritual health.*

d. Those who reject Christ's reign over them will be judged when He returns. v. 27

• **John 3:36** "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

◆ Rev 20:11-15

• This world belongs to God.

• Those who enjoy the things God provides yet rebel against God are rightly condemned.

• When Christ returns He will judge His enemies.

◆ But the person who receives Christ as their Lord and Savior will be delivered from judgment.

◇ John 5:24

◇ Romans 8:1