

Luke

See Jesus

What Should We Live For?

Luke 19:9-27

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept 17, 2023

I. Jesus Wants Us to Continue What He Started

Luke 19:13 “Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’”

A. He’s the Master and We Are His Servants

We’re not co-owners, co-partners, or co-equal. He’s the Master and we are the servants.

B. He Simply Asks Us to Keep Doing What He Started

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

That’s what He’s about and that’s what He wants us to be about!

He said, “Engage in business until I come.” That word for “business” in the Greek is the word “pragma” from which we get our English word “pragmatic.” Jesus wants us to find some practical, every day ways to invest in the business that He started—and to keep doing it until His return!

C. He Gives Us What We Need to Do It

He gave each one of them a fairly significant amount. (A mina was equal to about 3 months wages.) He entrusted to each one of them something valuable that He wanted each one of them to invest in His kingdom business.

It’s important to recognize the difference between the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 and the parable of the minas here in Luke 19:

- In **Matthew 25**, He gave each of the servants a different amount because it was about different levels of gifting and abilities, but then He rewarded them all the same to remind them that God gave you that gift. You only do what you do because of what He gave to you.
- Here in **Luke 19** with the parable of the minas, He gives each servant same amount, but then rewards them differently based on what they’ve done with it.

The point of this parable is about faithfulness rather than giftedness because the value of the mina represents the treasure of the Gospel, which every believer has been given equally. We’ve all received the same incredible treasure of the Gospel, and He wants us to put it to work in our world.

2 Corinthians 4:4-9 “...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.”

II. Jesus Wants You to Hear “Well Done!”

But even as He tells His servants “well done!” they have enough sense to know that it’s not what they’ve done, but what He’s done through them by the power of the Gospel!

That’s why you see the servants talking about the mina the way they do:

Luke 19:16 “... Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.”

Luke 19:18 “... Lord, your mina has made five minas.”

They make it sound like the money did all the work and has power to grow all by itself. In other words, they didn’t boast in what they had done. They rejoiced in what the Gospel could do!

“Outside of heaven, the power of God in its highest density is found inside the gospel. This must be so, for the Bible twice describes the gospel as *‘the power of God.’* Nothing else in all of Scripture is ever described in this way, except for the Person of Jesus Christ...God’s power is seen in erupting volcanoes, in the unimaginable hot boil of our massive sun, and in the lightning speed of a recently discovered star seen streaking through the heavens at 1.5 million miles per hour. Yet in Scripture such wonders are never labeled *‘the power of God.’* How powerful, then, must the gospel be that it would merit such a title!”

~ Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer*, pp. 14-15

III. Jesus Wants You to Know Where You Stand

A. You Might Be Self-Deceived

Luke 19:20-21 “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...’”

The Greek word for “another” is the word “heteros” that means different and not orthodox. In other words, he doesn’t fit the category of a true believer. It’s evident he doesn’t know the master well at all.

Churches are filled with people like this who think they know Him or pretend to know Him by going to church, but there’s no heart for it; they certainly don’t see the Gospel as a treasure or they wouldn’t stuff it away somewhere in a handkerchief.

B. You Might Be an Enemy

Luke 19:14 “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him saying, ‘We don’t want this man to reign over us.’”

Luke 19:27 “But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.”

He makes absolutely clear how this free offer will not last forever. That’s why Jesus doesn’t shy away from talking about the judgment that’s coming!

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might.”