

Use it or Lose It March 1st & 2nd, 2014

Luke 19:11-27

Jesus always taught eternal truths in His parables. The occasion for this parable was in response to the disciples supposing that the kingdom was to appear immediately. The key point was that the disciples were being tested to see whether they were ready for larger tasks in the kingdom and each disciple had a job to do while Jesus was away!

The nobleman went away for a time

- ❖ The nobleman gave each servant a mina to invest. *Luke 19:13*
 - ◆ The servants were not to be idle while he was away.
 - ◆ The servants were to be faithful with what they had.
- ❖ The servants were to be faithful doing business until the nobleman returned and were to give an account when he returned although they did not know when that would be.
 - ◆ The citizens hated the nobleman and rejected his rule over them.
 - ◆ The servants had to be willing to take the risk and be loyal in hope that the nobleman would return even though people were sent after him to oppose him. *Luke 19:14*
 - ◆ The citizens represent the world's rejection of the King of Kings!

The nobleman returns

- ❖ The nobleman wants to know how much more was gained by his servants.
- ❖ The first servant increased the nobleman's investment.
 - ◆ The servant was commended for his faithfulness not for his success! *Luke 19:17*
 - ◆ The servant had declared his loyalty during the nobleman's absence by his actions.
 - ◆ The servant's reward for his faithfulness was not rest but an opportunity for greater service!
 - ◆ The servant did not take credit but humbly acknowledged the nobleman's gift – "your mina".
- ❖ The second servant also increased the nobleman's investment.
 - ◆ Even though his increase was only half of the first servant, he was commended for his faithfulness!
 - ◆ The servant's reward was not more privileges but greater responsibilities! *Luke 19:19*
- ❖ The third servant did nothing with the nobleman's investment.
 - ◆ The servant begins to make excuses
 - ↳ "I was afraid of you" "You are a severe man"
 - ↳ "You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." *Luke 19:21*
 - ↳ The faithful servants had no difficulty understanding the true nature of the nobleman!
 - ↳ The unfaithful servant was most likely influenced by the hateful feelings of the citizens toward the nobleman.

📖 Psalm 18:25-26

- ◆ The servant's unfaithfulness was produced by his bad attitude!

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude in life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do

is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude. ...I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.” – Chuck Swindoll¹

The nobleman condemned the unfaithful servant.

- ❖ The Day of Judgment is coming!
 - ◆ This parable indicates that there are no further negotiations when the master returns!
- ❖ What the unfaithful servant had - he lost. He was to use it or lose it!
- ❖ The generosity of the nobleman is seen in that the unfaithful servant lost what he had but was not further punished!
- ❖ The nobleman’s enemies were punished! *Luke 19:27*
“For the wages of sin is death, ...” Romans 6:23
- ❖ The Good News!
“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” Romans 5:10

“Jesus is clearly the generous master who expects loyalty from His followers, and in His own good time He will make an accounting with them, to the joy of some and the disappointment of others.” – Kenneth E. Bailey²

Endnotes:

¹ Zuck, Roy B. *The Speaker’s Quote Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2009. Print.

² Bailey, Kenneth E. *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008. Print.

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