

Message #92**Luke 19:11-27**

There are many legendary stories from the life of D. L. Moody. One of the stories occurred in 1897. D. L. Moody was in Boston holding meetings in Tremont Temple. In that same city was a very famous medical doctor whose name was Dr. Wilfred Grenfell. Dr. Grenfell had never met Mr. Moody so he went to D. L. Moody's hotel and found him. Keep in mind this was the first time these two had met. At this meeting he told D. L. Moody that he had gone to one of his tent revival crusades some 14 years earlier and had trusted Jesus Christ as Savior at that meeting. Dr. Grenfell said that D. L. Moody immediately responded by asking him "What have you been doing since?"

Well that motivated Dr. Grenfell to do a lot in life. He used his medical skills to give out medicine, pills, clothes, friendship and God's word. He was able to create cottage industries, where people could work at home and make a good living; he created orphanages and churches. When Dr. Grenfell died in 1940, he left behind not only the legacy of a great physician, but the legacy of a great Christian.

Undoubtedly, we have all, in perhaps one way or another, been guilty of maximizing the message of salvation while minimizing the message of service. We have all heard the statement "well the main thing is he or she was saved." Now we do not deny that this is a tremendous hope that one has. **However, we do not ever want to minimize the importance of serving the Lord after we have been saved by the Lord.**

Serving the Lord is important and that is not just our opinion. That is the way Jesus saw it. There is no question that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, but there is also no question that He wanted those saved to realize that one day they will face Him and rewards may be gained or lost.

There are many true believers who will have a rude awakening on the day they face Christ because they will realize that their salvation was much more than just a ticket to heaven. Their salvation was for an appointment for service.

To not get serious about the word of God and the work of God is a very serious matter in the mind of Jesus Christ, and after one is saved He would certainly agree with Mr. Moody's response, "What have you been doing since?"

That is a point Jesus Christ wanted to drive home here.

JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN IN THE FUTURE AND WILL JUDGE AND REWARD EVERYONE; THE FAITHFUL AND THE UNFAITHFUL; THE BELIEVER AND THE UNBELIEVER.

Jesus Christ is coming again. He will come back to this world and He will judge everyone in this world. His judgment will determine heaven and hell. His judgment will determine rewards and loss of rewards. The judgments will occur at different times and different settings, but He will judge.

Those believers who are faithfully serving God will forever reap because of it and those who are not faithfully serving God will forever regret it. What we do with Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ does matter. In God's world, Christ-like lives matter.

Now some have suggested that this text in Luke is the same account as Matthew 25:14-30. But they are not the same account. There are four main differences between Luke 19:11-27 and Matthew 25:14-30:

- 1) There is a difference in location:
Luke 19 is in Jericho (Luke 18:35); Matthew 25 is in Jerusalem (25:1).
- 2) There is a difference in number of talents:
Luke 19 is 10 to each (19:13); Matthew 25 is 5, 2, 1 to different people.
- 3) There is a difference in historical context:
Luke 19 is before the cross (19:11); Matthew 25 is after the Tribulation (24:29).
- 4) There is a difference of rewards:
Luke 19 the worthless servant loses rewards (19:24-26).
Matthew 25 the worthless servant loses eternity (25:30).

So these are two different passages that do teach the importance of what we do with what God has given us.

There are eight key parabolic parts to this story:

PARABOLIC PART #1 – Luke reveals the reason why Jesus told this parable. **19:11**

A parable is an earthly story designed to reveal heavenly truth. There are at least three reasons why Jesus told this parable:

Reason #1 - To straighten out misconceptions about what was going to happen in Jerusalem.

Jesus Christ was going to Jerusalem to die (18:31-33). Almost everyone thought He was going to Jerusalem to immediately set up the Kingdom of God and reign as King. **There would be a big difference between Christ's first coming and His second coming.**

Reason #2 - To encourage His followers to faithfully serve Him after He was gone.

He wanted His people to realize that they needed to keep ministering and serving after He was gone.

Reason #3 - To warn all people that there will be a future judgment.

Every person will face Jesus Christ and those who wasted their lives will regret it the day they face Him. **There will come a point in time when everyone will face Jesus Christ. That fact of the future should effect focus in the present.**

PARABOLIC PART #2 – Jesus tells this nobleman parable to reveal His program. **19:12**

A person of great nobility left his residency and went to a distant country in order to receive a kingdom. The original plan was that He go to receive a Kingdom and then return to the place from which He came.

The point is Jesus Christ left heaven in order to come to this world to receive a Kingdom and then return. That was the original plan. Jesus did not fail in His mission. In fact, before He returned to heaven, He had established a spiritual kingdom that is still thriving to this day.

Now the clear program of God did not include the idea of Him staying in the “distant country.” His original plan all along was He would return to heaven. So even though His intent was to establish a literal kingdom on earth at His first coming, He still had to die and still intended to return back to heaven.

So the plan was for Christ to come, then leave and then come back.

PARABOLIC PART #3 – The nobleman gave entrustments to ten of His servants. **19:13**

Since the plan of God included the idea of Christ returning to His place of residency, He called ten slaves and entrusted them with the responsibility of taking care of His business until He returned. The specific charge from Christ is that the servants are to stay faithful in the business of God until He returns.

Now we do not think that the number ten servants is any coincidence. The number ten is a very significant number. It is used about 242 times in the Bible.

- 1) There were ten commandments given to Israel.
- 2) There were ten plagues given to Egypt.
- 3) There was a 10% tithe number given in different contexts.
- 4) There will be ten nations who will dominate the world just before Christ’s return.
- 5) The Passover Lamb was to be chosen on the 10th day of the first month (Ex. 12:3).

The number ten seems to refer to complete fulfillment of the judicial program of God. **So ten servants would represent all servants who are necessary for the fulfillment of the program of God.**

Now each servant was given a mina. Dr. Wayne House calculated that a mina was worth about \$20. Most people at this time made about 20 cents a day, so a mina was enough to cover about 100 days or about three months. So each servant was given about three month's wages.

Each servant began with the same opportunity. Each servant was given an entrustment for which he was responsible and accountable. W. H. Griffith Thomas said, "This verse teaches: personal responsibility, full liberty, ample opportunity and future accountability."

Every person who has believed in Jesus Christ has been entrusted with a foundation upon which to build (I Cor. 3:11). We are individually responsible and accountable to do what we are able to do in regard to His work in the world, His body and His church.

PARABOLIC PART #4 – The nobleman was rejected by the citizens. 19:14

This verse could not be any clearer. The Jewish people hated Jesus Christ, rejected Jesus Christ and would not allow Him to reign over them as King. In spite of all the things He did and said and in spite of the power He displayed which they saw, they would not give Him reign over their lives. They did not want Him to be their King.

There are many like that right now who go to church. They are not about to get serious about God's word. In fact, now many don't even go to church. They are not about to submit themselves to God's will. They refuse to submit to the will of God and they will regret it the day they face Him.

PARABOLIC PART #5 – The nobleman returns to judge the servants. 19:15-24

Now we jump ahead in time to when the King returns. The first thing He does is to call His servants to accountability.

Now there are many people who don't like this theme but it comes straight from God. Jesus Christ will personally evaluate and judge every servant when He returns. This will be a very intimidating moment—whether for the church, Israel or the nations.

There are three specific judgments made in these verses:

Judgment #1 - The judgment of servant #1. 19:16-17

Servant #1 was very faithful. He took what the Lord had given him and multiplied it ten times. To produce such great increase, this servant stuck right to his task. He must have been a servant interested in doing more and more. He apparently kept investing and expanding and increasing. As a result he was given two rewards:

(Reward #1) - He received the reward of verbal commendation. 19:17a

(Reward #2) - He received the reward of kingdom authority. **19:17b**

Judgment #2 - The judgment of servant #2. **19:18-19**

Servant #2 was also very faithful. He took what the Lord had given him and multiplied it five times. He wasn't quite the achiever as servant #1, but he was very faithful with what he had been given and he did accomplish much with what he had. He did not win the salesman of the year award, but he invested and increased for the work of the King. He does not receive verbal commendation, but he is wonderfully compensated.

As a result, he was given one reward:

(Reward #1) - He received Kingdom authority. **19:19**

He was given governmental control over five cities. He ended up holding a great amount of honor in the Kingdom.

Judgment #3 - The judgment of servant #3. **19:20-24**

Servant #3 did not do anything for the King. He was not profitable in any way. When it came to the King's business, he was totally inactive. In fact, he kept his entrustment hidden so that no one even knew he had it. If you would have seen this servant, you would not have known he had any relationship whatsoever with the King. He fit right into the world and no one even knew he was connected to the King.

According to **verse 21**, he had an excuse, which is one of the most feeble you will ever see. He tries to blame the King for his own lack and ineffectiveness. He claims the reason he didn't do anything for the King and the reason he wasn't faithful is because the King was an "exacting man."

The allegation is that the King is known as one who is a strict and severe leader, known for his ability to conquer and succeed at everything he tackled.

So his rationale is "I was afraid if I tried something for you I might fail and that would mean I would have to face a severe judge and therefore I decided to stay home and do nothing."

Can you imagine the stupidity of this argument? You know that you will face a coming judgment by a strict judge and you decide to do nothing? Can you imagine the stupidity of knowing you will give an account to the King of Kings and do absolutely nothing with the skills, abilities, talents, money and gifts the King has given to you?

It would have been much better to have tried something and failed than to face the King having done nothing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to face Jesus Christ. Do you realize that? Do you care? Does that thought make any difference to the way you live? Do you understand that you and I will give a full account of ourselves to Jesus Christ?

It is very clear from the next verses that this King was not impressed or compassionate with the fact that this servant did nothing. In fact, He pronounces a very serious judgment on this servant. According to **verse 22**, the King informed him that He would judge him by his own words. His own words just stated that he knew of the coming future accountability judgment of the coming King but did nothing about it with what he had. **He specifically says you are a “worthless servant.”**

That word “worthless” means that according to this King he was both worthless and wicked in His estimation.

In **verse 23**, the King says why didn’t you put it in the bank? If he would have done that, he would have at least let someone know he had this entrustment. He would have publicly let the banker and bank tellers know that he was one whom the King had chosen.

But this servant did nothing. He was worthless and wicked. It is a wicked and worthless thing to have been given a grace gift of God and do nothing with it.

According to **verse 24**, this loser lost every possible reward and responsibility he could have had in the kingdom. He ends up in the kingdom with nothing. He doesn’t even get one city and he ends up broke forever.

The one who was the most faithful inherited the eternal responsibilities of the one who was least faithful. In other words, the one who was faithful got more and more territorial rewards.

This is not a popular message, but it needs to be clearly taught and stated. It is possible to end up in eternity and lose all rewards. The Apostle John said to believers, you may face Jesus Christ in confidence or in shame (I John 2:28).

If you do nothing as a believer with all God has given to you, you will get nothing.

PARABOLIC PART #6 – There is a reaction of the people to the judgment. 19:25

The majority of people did not like this kind of judgment. The reason they didn’t like this outcome is because most of them were not serving at a ten level. Faithful people will not only be rewarded for their work, but they will also receive more from those who weren’t faithful. Jesus Christ is not about to ever let an unfaithful servant manage in His heavenly kingdom.

Most people do a little here and a little there for the Lord, but most don’t serve at a ten level. So when you have a judgment that gives more and more to ten level servants, it does not please the majority.

PARABOLIC PART #7 – Jesus Christ responds to the people. 19:26

Jesus responded two ways:

Way #1 - The one who accomplished much for Me will be given much from Me. 19:26a

Way #2 - The one who accomplished nothing for Me will be given nothing from Me. 19:26b

Jesus says like it or not, this is the way it is and this is the way it will be. This reality should cause each of us to be intimidated and give ourselves a reality check. Each of us will give an account to Him. If we serve Him at a ten level, we will never regret it. If we serve Him at a five level, we will never regret it. If we don't serve Him and if we do nothing, we will regret it forever.

PARABOLIC PART #8 – Jesus Christ will also pronounce a judgment on rejecters. 19:27

There will be another group who will face Jesus Christ and that will be those enemies who hated Him (19:14). They will face another kind of judgment. Their judgment is not loss of rewards; it is eternal execution and eternal damnation.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ came to this world and went into Jerusalem. He was crucified and buried and He rose again and then went back to heaven, from where He came.

Now we are waiting for Him to come back. When He does, He will judge each and every one of us. How serious do you take this? When Christ returns there will be servants who will be rewarded and there will be servants who will lose rewards and then there will be unbelievers who will end up in everlasting fire.

If you are a believer, you have received an amazing grace gift of salvation. You are a special person and God has given you everything you have and are. Take what you have and invest it for the King. You will never regret it.

If you are not a believer, you need to receive Jesus Christ. If you don't, you will forever regret it.