

LESSON 4- OCCUPY UNTIL I COME

APRIL 26, 2020

Background Scripture: Luke 19

Lesson Passage: Luke 19:11-27 (KJV)

Introduction: In the Gospel of Luke 19, Jesus spoke a parable to His followers because He was nearing Jerusalem; the place of His crucifixion and the end of His mission in the world. The Lord left the world forty days after His resurrection to return to heaven and the Father; to continue His ministry which now includes priestly duties, intercession, advocacy, preparation for His return to earth and settling of the believers with Him eventually. Ten days after His ascension He sent the Holy Spirit into the world to lead, guide, teach, and bring to our remembrance all that He (Jesus) has taught us. The Church was formed on the Day of Pentecost and the work began.

Christ uses the Parable of the Ten Minas in our lesson, to teach about the coming kingdom of God on earth. The occasion of the parable is Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem. Many people in the crowd along the road believed that He was going to Jerusalem in order to establish His earthly kingdom immediately. Of course, He was going to Jerusalem in order to die, as He had stated before in Luke 18:33. Jesus used this parable to dispel any hopeful rumors that the time of the kingdom had arrived.

Scripture Reference: Luke 19:11-27 (KJV)

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Memory Verse: *13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come* (Luke 19:13) KJV

Topic Explored: *“Occupy Until I Come”* ~ The church began on the Day of Pentecost as a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:1-4). As a result of the indwelling and outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached one sermon, and three thousand people from eighteen nations were added to the church (Acts 1:5-13, 40-46). And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. In addition to the daily addition, the teaching and preaching on another occasion brought in five thousand men besides women and children (Acts 4:4). The growth of the church continued until the first generation of Christians, including Apostle John who lived to be ninety-two years old, passed on. Our Lord Jesus expects us to continue diligently in this work and to give priority to it over our own work. God the Father gave Him (Jesus) all authority. And this authority He had given to us to perform the work of growing and establishing the church on earth. The Lord commanded: *“Occupy till I come”*; that in His absence we should be busy until He returns for us.

Lesson Focus: Luke 19:11-27 (KJV)

Verses 11-13 ~ In the parable, a nobleman leaves for a foreign country in order to be made king. Before he left, he gave ten minas to ten of his servants. A mina was a good sum of money (about three months' wages), and the future king said, “Put this money to work . . . until I come back”.

Verses 14-19 ~ However, the man's subjects “hated him” and sent word to him that they refused to acknowledge his kingship. When the man was crowned king, he returned to his homeland and began to set things right. First, he called the ten servants to whom he had loaned the minas. They each gave an account for how they had used the money. The first servant showed that his mina had earned ten more. The king was pleased, saying, *“Well done, my good servant! . . . Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities”*. The next servant's investment had yielded five additional minas, and that servant was rewarded with charge of five cities.

Verses 20-27 ~ Then came a servant who reported that he had done nothing with his mina except hide it in a cloth. His reason: *“I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow”*. The king responded to the servant's description of him as “hard” by showing hardness, calling him a “wicked servant” and commanding for his mina to be given to the one who had earned ten. Some bystanders said, *“Sir, he already has ten!”* and the king replied, *“I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away”*. Finally, the king commanded that his enemies—those who had rebelled against his authority—be brought before him. Right there in the king's presence, they were executed.

In this parable, Jesus teaches several things about the Millennial Kingdom and the time leading up to it. As Luke 19:11 indicates, Jesus' most basic point is that the kingdom was not going to appear immediately. There would be a period, during which the king would be absent, before the kingdom would be set up. The nobleman in the parable is Jesus, who left this world but who will return as King someday. The servants the king charges with a task represent followers of Jesus. The Lord has given us a valuable commission, and we must be faithful to serve Him until He returns. Upon His return, Jesus will ascertain the faithfulness of His own people (Romans 14:10-12). There is work to be done (John 9:4), and we must use what God has given us for His glory.

There are promised rewards for those who are faithful in their charge. The enemies who rejected the king in the parable are representative of the Jewish nation that rejected Christ while He walked on earth—and everyone who still denies Him today. When Jesus returns to establish His kingdom, one of the first things He will do is utterly defeat His enemies (Revelation 19:11–15). It does not pay to fight against the King of kings.

Let's talk about it. . .

- The question now is what Jesus expects of us while He is away and until He returns. What are some areas you hear/read Scripture instructing us to pay attention to until He comes again?
- What are at least five major points that the parable communicates. *First*, Jesus will leave His disciples for an undetermined amount of time. *Second*, Jesus will return to consummate His kingdom sometime in the future. *Third*, disciples of Jesus who are good stewards in His absence will receive incredible rewards from Him upon His return. *Fourth*, disciples of Jesus who are poor stewards in His absence will have their rewards taken away and given to the disciples who are good stewards. *Fifth*, those who reject Jesus as the rightful king will face a terrible judgment upon His return.
- The Parable of the Ten Minas is like the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–30. Some people assume that they are the same parable, but there are enough differences to warrant a distinction: Compare the differences: **1)** the parable of the minas was told on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem; the parable of the talents was told later on the Mount of Olives. **2)** The audience for the parable of the minas was a large crowd; the audience for the parable of the talents was the disciples by themselves. **3)** The parable of the minas deals with two classes of people: servants and enemies; the parable of the talents deals only with professed servants. **4)** In the parable of the minas, each servant receives the same amount; in the parable of the talents, each servant receives a different amount (and talents are worth far more than minas). **5)** Also, the return is different: in the parable of the minas, the servants report ten-fold and five-fold earnings; in the parable of the talents, all the good servants double their investment. In the former, the servants received identical gifts; in the latter, the good servants showed identical faithfulness.

Making it personal:

- Whatever the mina is, whether it's revelation, spiritual gifts, talents, time — or money — our greatest goal should be to use it to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. And when our lives are over, we'll hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21)

Closing Prayer: *"Heavenly Father, do not let us neglect Your Spirit or the gifts You have given us. Give us courage to use these gifts and the humility to not use them for our glory, but for You and Your glory. Help us see the good work You have ready for us and embrace that work with willingness and joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen."*