



Journey to Jerusalem

LENT 2022

Growth Group Curriculum Week 5 – April 3, 2022 – Luke 19:11-26

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

This is the last parable Jesus tells before he makes his way into Jerusalem for what has traditionally been called Palm Sunday. We will consider that story next week. Jesus tells a parable that has often been seen as pointing to the last judgment. However, the parable is also talking about the impending arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem.

This parable concludes the travel narrative that began in Luke 9:51. This parable has some similarities to a parable Jesus tells in Matthew 25:14-30, but it also has some noticeable differences. A mina was worth about a sixtieth of a talent or about one hundred drachmas, or about three months' wages.

A king returns to see how his servants have been doing, even though the servants really don't want the king around. Jesus tells this parable to help people see that he is describing himself as the king who is about to return home. His arrival in Jerusalem is the fulfillment of God's plan. He is the rightful king and the sovereign ruler is returning to Jerusalem.

The prophets had anticipated this, but Israel continued to miss it. As Malachi wrote, the Lord will return to the Temple, and Jesus is about to do that. The problem that the parable describes is that the people did not want him to return and be their king, or at least to be the type of king that Jesus was going to be. Jesus will be a different sort of king who reigns with grace and peace, but he will still be rejected because the people/religious leaders want to hold onto their understanding of God's kingdom.

It is possible that these parables told by Jesus are really intended for two different groups of people. The crowd and then the disciples. For the crowd there is a reminder that judgment is going to happen. People will need to decide whether to follow the king and listen to the king. For the disciples and other followers of Jesus there is a sense of how are you going to "invest" the faith and gifts that have been given to you by God.

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Jesus will return as king and will put things right. This is about to happen in Jerusalem and yet as we all know, it will also happen again at the end of time. Jesus will return for his people and we must all decide what we will do with the gift that God has given to us.

Exploring the Text

Luke 19:11-26

¹¹ While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. ¹² He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.^[a] ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’ ¹⁴ “But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’ ¹⁵ “He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. ¹⁶ “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ¹⁷ “‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ ¹⁸ “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ ¹⁹ “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’ ²⁰ “Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹ 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.’ ²² “His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ “Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’ ²⁵ “‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’ ²⁶ “He 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.’

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) Over the past five weeks we have looked at several parables that Jesus told. Do you have a favorite parable?
- 2) When you hear the phrase “kingdom of God,” what do you think about? How would you define the kingdom of God?
- 3) Verse 11 tells us that people were talking about the kingdom of God appearing all at once. Why do you think the people thought this? What does this parable teach us about the kingdom of God?
- 4) The nobleman gave each person one mina. Do you think this is significant for the story? Why do you think everyone received the same amount?
- 5) What can we learn from the first two servants in the passage? They were faithful with what they were given and then they were given more responsibility. How does this concept connect to living out our faith in the world?



- 6) Is there a place in your life where you feel like you should be doing some more “faithful investing?” Is there somewhere you feel like you should be living more intentionally for Jesus?
- 7) The third servant put his mina in a piece of cloth and did not invest it because he feared his master. If Jesus is the noble man who came back as king, where do you think this fear came from?
- 8) How does fear keep us from being faithful to God’s calling on our lives? Is there a place in your life right now where you feel like fear is holding you back?

