

YOUR PROFIT/(LOSS) STATEMENT

Luke 19:11-27

By the way the King's servants use the resources He entrusts to us, we make a statement about our loyalty and love for Him.

INSTRUCTION BASED ON REJECTION 18:31-19:27

He's headed for Jerusalem to die.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE KINGDOM

19:11-27

Response to expectation kingdom is coming soon.

Jesus explains why the kingdom will be delayed.

The King has been rejected by his subjects,

and is going on a long journey,

He'll return to judge those who oppose Him.

He entrusts resources to servants to use for His benefit.

He'll evaluate use of possessions when He returns.

What's the message of this parable?

All had better prepare themselves!

Two kinds of people:

1. Those who serve Him; 2. Those who oppose Him.

Spurgeon summarizes: "There are many divisions among men into nationalities, ranks, offices and characters; but the deep divisions will always be two—the enemies and the servants of Christ."

Ultimately, that's the bottom line. *Which are we?*

Two distinct messages:

1. For subjects who oppose Him.

They'll be destroyed.

2. For people who serve Him.

They'll be judged based on

use of resources entrusted to them.

Are we profitable for Him?

THE REASON FOR THE PARABLE 19:11-12

What's the popular expectation? 19:11

"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."

"The kingdom is coming at once!"

This hope is prevalent, among Jesus' followers

and the rest of the people.

What's the real plan? 19:12

He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return."

A long journey to a far away country

To receive the kingdom—He will be back!

THE KING'S SUBJECTS 19:14, 27

How do they respond to their king?

19:14

"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'"

They hate him. They reject him

They don't want him to rule over them.

Reminds them of recent event: when **Herod the Great** died.

Archelaus, had to go to Rome to receive authority.

Delegation went to appeal.
 He receives authority, but first has to prove himself.
 Jesus uses event to indicate that
 they're treating their Messiah the same way.
 They don't want Him either!
 Just as Herod had to go on a long journey,
 Jesus is going on a long journey.
 He'll return as triumphant King over His kingdom.
 In case of Archelaus, they're justified in opposition.
 From line of half-breed kings, known for cruelty and lack of concern for people, he's
 as evil as the rest.
 They didn't want such a tyrant to rule them!
They treat their Messiah with same contempt.
 Their quandary: They want the kingdom—but not the King.
 Since Israel rejects the King, He's going on a long journey.

What are the results for them? 19:27

But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.”

He's made King anyway.

Their rejection can't stop His becoming King.

He *will* return—whether they like it or not!

He'll judge subjects who reject Him; they die!

One conclusion is evident: Rejecting Jesus is no light matter!

THE KING'S SERVANTS 19:13, 15-26

While gone, King entrusts possessions to servants,
 to use for His benefit.

The commission 19:13

So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.

'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

Each is given 1 mina = 100 drachmas;

a common laborer's salary for 100 days work.

Each receives the same value as the others.

No evaluation based on what they receive;

Evaluation based on what we do with what He entrusts to us.

We're to use it for His benefit.

"Put it to work until I come back!"

Not commissioned to hoard it, to play with it,

to brag about it, to waste it, to fight the enemy with it.

WE'RE TO INVEST IT—for His benefit.

THE JUDGMENT 19:15 *"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.*

When He comes back,

his servants have to give an account.

What have they done with His resources?

Judgment is based on profitability to the Master.

THE RESULTS 16-26

For good servants 19:16-19 *"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 (faithful) 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.'*

One earns 10X–1000% profit!–is praised and rewarded.

One earns 5X–500% profit–also praised and rewarded.

Based on faithfulness–NOT quantity.

Did they use it for the Master's benefit?

Reward is not rest and luxury; but increased service.

For bad servants 19:20-24a *"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"*

NOT faithful – *only concerned about himself!*

Doesn't use resources for His master's profit.

Servant has negative attitude about his Master.

Doesn't conceive of him as loving person, concerned for his welfare.

He's hard and rigid. He takes what isn't His.

He's demanding and unfair.

He serves in fear;

He tries to figure out how to protect *himself*.

He doesn't serve Master out of love.

He doesn't seek His benefit.

Servant allows fear to keep him from doing what he's commissioned to do–put funds to work.

The master uses the servant's own words:

"If you knew this, why didn't you act accordingly?"

You could have at least put the money in the bank"

Conservative servant could do that to protect self and earn adequate return.

Today they could put it in CDs or money market fund.

They had no banks like ours, but they could invest with money lenders who functioned like a bank.

Final distribution 19:24b-26 *"...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 he has will be taken away.'*

Faithful people receive more

Unfaithful people lose what they have.

Portion taken away from unfaithful servant who refuses to invest resources;

Given to one who uses it for Master's benefit.

Principle: those who use resources wisely are entrusted with more. Those who don't, lose what they have.

Principle of life:*"USE IT OR LOOSE IT!"*

If we discipline and **train our bodies** they become stronger.

If we stop using them, they grow flabby.

We learn **Spanish** in school, if we use it, we grow in our ability. If we stop using it, we lose ability to speak it.

Same principle in **spiritual life**: Either we use resources God has entrusted to us and develop them; or we lose them.

By exercising the will to do good, **character** becomes stronger. If we get lazy, we lose disciplines of walking with God.

If we use **spiritual gifts and talents**, they become more useful.

If we don't use them, we lose ability to use them.

If we're waiting for His return, . . .

ALL SHOULD PREPARE TO RECEIVE HIM!

His enemies will be judged

His servants should be faithful

WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THE PARABLE?

[To determine] *What camp am I in?*

Am I one of those who hate Him and reject Him? (=> death!)

Am I among those who serve Him? (=> life!)

What'll I do with resource God places in my hands?

Lesson for followers:

Be careful HOW we use resource He places in our hands.

God has placed different resources in each of our hands:

Money Possessions Gifts Life

God holds us responsible for what He places in our hands.

He'll come back, whether we like it or not.

He'll ask for accounting: ***"What have you done***

with the resources I placed in your hands"

We have resources uniquely given to us by God.

Only you have the circle of friends He has given to you.

Only you have story of how God has worked in your life.

You can hide that treasure and face Him with no profit.

Or, you can invest that gift in others,

and bring the profits back to Him.

Ironside: Talented young lady. Dad spent large sums to prepare her for career in opera. As she was completing her education, she was saved and committed her life to the Lord. She returned home to tell her father she had changed direction and desired to use her voice for God. He was furious! He warned her that if she didn't change her mind he would throw her out. At a graduation party in her honor she was asked to sing. She proceeded to sing an old gospel hymn with her beautiful trained voice. After she finished, she went to her father, expecting to be ejected. He came with tears in his eyes and said, "I want to know your Saviour."

What have you done with the mina God placed in your hand?

Spurgeon: "My friend, have you that pound anywhere about you? 'Alas!' says one, 'I have no abilities at all.' How is that? Your Lord gave you a pound; what has become of it? You are His servant; if you're doing nothing ... you ought to be ashamed. What have you done with that pound? Put your hand in your pocket again. It is not there. Is it in the napkin? ... Have you got

that pound? You say, 'It is not much.' The Master did not say it was much, on the contrary, He called it 'very little:' but have you used that very little?"

Will I be faithful to earn more for His benefit? => Reward

Will I be unfaithful, not using it for Him? => empty handed

Are we content to hide resources God gave us wrapped up in a cloth somewhere, so no one can take it or do it harm?

We've been burned too many times!

Don't want anyone to take more from us!

Our Lord says He gave it to us to be used for His profit!

Will you take it out of the napkin and put it to use?

Notice the scale of the reward:

He was given three months of a working class person's salary.

He earned thirty months worth, 1000% return.

He was rewarded with charge over 10 cities.

Much more than he earned!

He was faithful with little, he received much.

How much might we receive?

God's grace is always disproportionate to what we deserve,

but we must be faithful to receive it!

What might we receive for faithfulness?

What are we doing about it?

Are we using resources He placed in our hands for His profit?

By the way the King's servants use the resources He entrusts to us, we make a statement

—about our loyalty and love for Him.