

SERMON DATE: February 7, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Faithfulness: A Consistent Walk with God

SERMON TITLE: When Opportunity Knocks

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE – Luke 19:11-26

¹¹ While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. ¹² So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. ¹³ And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business *with this* until I come *back*.’ ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent ^[n]a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵ When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. ¹⁶ The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ ¹⁸ The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ ²⁰ Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ ²² He ^{*}said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas *already*.’ ²⁶ I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” (Luke 19:11-13)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Jesus shared the parable of the nobleman who goes to a far country to receive a kingdom because His disciples believed that He was going to Jerusalem to be crowned as king and receive a kingdom. Despite the fact that they walked with Jesus for more than three years, heard His words, and saw His miracles, the disciples' focus was on ruling instead of suffering and serving. The nobleman called ten of his servants and entrusted to each the same amount of money. The emphasis of the parable is on opportunity for faithful service. Opportunity, which is the same for everyone, does not depend upon ability. When God gives us serving opportunities, He also gives us the responsibility to fulfill our commitment, and we can expect to be held accountable.

INTRODUCTION

The nobleman gave the same amount of money to each servant and the parable records his accountability conversation with three of the servants. Four important principles emerge from the text.

Principle # 1

When opportunity knocks, you can expect responsibility to be its companion.

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Principle #2

Authority is useless without the power to enforce it.

¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent ^[h]a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, who did not

want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.”
(Luke 19:14,27)

Principle #3

When we accept responsibility for a task, we also accept accountability.

¹⁵ When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. ¹⁶ The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ ¹⁸ The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ (Luke 19:15-19)

Principle #4

When the time comes for accountability, it will be too late to make excuses.

²⁰ Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ ²² He *said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas *already*.’ ²⁶ I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (Luke 19:20-26)