

## Investing in God's Kingdom

Luke 19:11–27

Have you ever been handed a responsibility that felt bigger than you, like a task at work, a ministry, or an opportunity to sharing your faith, and wondered, “What if I mess this up?” I’ve been there—receiving something precious, knowing it’s bigger than me and not mine, and feeling the weight of using it well.

Recently, for example, I was given an opportunity to go on *Chris Fabry Live* on Moody Radio to talk about my book, *Collateral Blessings*. My heart skipped a beat, and I thought, “I’m not qualified to do this. What if my mind goes blank? Or I’m asked a question I can’t answer or I say the wrong thing? There are people much more qualified than me who would do a much better job. But the Lord, once again, reminded me that His strength is made perfect in weakness. So, I stepped out, still a little anxious, but trusting God to take my weakness and use it to reveal His power.

Now, that’s what Jesus asks of all of us—to take what He gives and use it boldly for His kingdom, knowing that one day we are going to stand before Him and give an account for what we did with what He entrusted to us (Revelation 22:12).

Brothers and sisters, Jesus entrusts us with resources—with time, gifts, and opportunities—and He’s coming back looking for a return on His investments.

In Luke 19:11–27, Jesus tells the Parable of the Minas just before entering Jerusalem, where He will face the cross. The crowd expected an immediate establishment of His kingdom (v. 11). So, He shared this parable to correct them and demonstrate that the cross comes before the crown—that there’s yet work to be done to finish His mission, namely to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

In the parable, a nobleman entrusts his ten servants with ten minas. Each one represents a unit of currency worth about three months’ wages, which was a significant sum to manage wisely. He instructs them to engage in business until he returns as king. And as we will

see, upon returning, he settles accounts by rewarding faithfulness and judging rebellion and mismanagement.

**Maid Idea:** Jesus entrusts us with unique resources to invest in His kingdom, calling us to faithfully steward them as we eagerly await His return and promised reward.

Let's walk through this parable to uncover three responses to the kingship of Jesus and His promised return and how we, as His disciples, can join His mission by investing faithfully.

## 1. The Rebellious Citizens Face Judgment

Let's start with the rebellious citizens who faced judgment. As the nobleman departs to a far country to receive his kingdom, his citizens send a delegation saying, "*We will not have this man to reign over us*" (Luke 19:14). When he returns as king, he commands, "*Bring those enemies of mine who did not want me to reign over them, and slaughter them before me*" (v. 27). This severe judgment of the citizens points to those who reject the Lordship of Christ today, choosing self-rule over submission to the King.

It's important to note that this story hit home for Jesus' audience. You see, the parable reflected a real and familiar scandal fresh in the minds of the people in His day (Hughes). Archelaus, who was the son of Herod the Great, sought the title of king over Judea after his father's death. However, he quickly alienated his subjects by massacring 3,000 Jewish people during Passover, piling up bodies in the temple. Moreover he ruled with corruption and ruined Judea's prosperity. So the Jewish people sent a delegation to Caesar, begging, "Don't make him king!" Caesar compromised, naming him ethnarch (a lesser title meaning "ruler of a people") and promised the title "king" only if he proved worthy—a promise Archelaus never fulfilled. Again, Jesus' listeners knew this story of a "wanna-be king." But He flips it around showing He's the true King, unlike the corrupt and ruthless pretender that Archelaus was, and His kingdom demands allegiance.

Now with this in mind, we must not miss that unlike Archelaus, the nobleman, who represents Jesus, doesn't turn back to judge the

rebels immediately upon hearing of their defiance. He continues to receive his kingdom in a far country, while delaying his judgment. This points to the merciful patience of Jesus—a patience that provides time for repentance. As Peter writes in 2 Peter 3:9: *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

Church, don’t miss God’s mercy by focusing only on the severity of the coming judgment. His delay in returning is a grace-filled invitation for the lost to turn from their rebellion and for the redeemed to work while there’s still time.

Let me suggest to you here that the reason people rebel and resist the gospel today is not ultimately an intellectual problem, but a heart issue. As Tim Keller observes, “people often reject the gospel not for lack of evidence, but because their hearts cling to something they love more than God.” People choose self-rule over the rule of Christ, resisting His call to faith and the light He provides.

To those who haven’t trusted Christ, are you resisting Him through unbelief, perhaps thinking it’s too hard to live the Christian life? How many of you know, it’s hard not to? Charles Spurgeon said, “Self is a cruel tyrant, but Christ is a gracious Lord; His yoke is easy, and His burden light.” Don’t be deceived, thinking self-rule is better than knowing Christ as Savior and Lord.

Let me be clear: the Christian life is impossible in our own strength—only Jesus lived it perfectly. But when we trust Him as Savior and Lord, we’re forgiven, reconciled to God, and in-dwelt by His Spirit to live with joy and free from regret.

Now, for those of us who follow Christ, let’s reflect on our own response to His lordship. How many of you can testify that delaying obedience led to regret and missed opportunities? As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 2:4: *“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”*

Often Romans 2:4 is interpreted as simply highlighting God's kindness leading to repentance, but the verse also carries a warning not to presume upon God's patience, kindness, and forbearance. God's patience isn't permission to compromise or squander His grace; it's a call to repent, not a license to delay or tempt Him.

Evaluate your life: Is there an area where you're saying, "I will not have this man reign over me"? Whether lost or saved, repent today—surrender to Jesus, for His patience is a merciful invitation to receive His redeeming and restoring grace

Now, not everyone rejects the nobleman. Some respond with faithfulness, trusting his promise.

## **2. The Faithful Servants Gain Rewards**

This brings us to the faithful servants who gained rewards. Luke continues: *"When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. <sup>16</sup> The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'"* Luke 19:15-19

Notice that two of the servants multiply their minas, one earning ten and another five. The nobleman gives his commendation, *"Well done, good servant!"* and then he entrusts them with authority over cities (vv. 17, 19). Their trust in his return fueled diligent work, and each of them capitalized on what their Lord entrusted to them, gaining them rewards. Later Jesus gives us this important principle to take away from His parable: *"I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."* Luke 19:26

Beloved, this kingdom principle has implication both now and in eternity? As one commentator insightfully notes, "The great reward of

God to the man who has satisfied the test is more trust. This is true not only in the kingdom to come but now.” (William Barclay). The faithful servants are given greater responsibility, showing that faithfulness opens doors to more opportunities to serve God (Matthew 25:21).

Let me ask you, what drives us to seize divine opportunities and work faithfully for God’s kingdom while there’s still time? Years ago, I heard this illustration from the late Adrian Rogers that stood with me:

“Off the coast of New Jersey,” he recounts, “a father took his young son and daughter out swimming in the Atlantic Ocean. They were having a wonderful time, unaware of the tide’s growing strength. Suddenly, the father realized that the tide had quickly swept his children far from the shore, which put them in great danger of drowning. His heart raced, but he stayed calm. His little five-year-old son was not as good a swimmer as his seven-year-old sister, and neither of them could make it back to shore against the tide. The father had to make a heart-wrenching choice. To avoid frightening his daughter, he called out to her, his voice strong but steady, almost soothing. “Sweetheart, you’re a good distance from the shore. I am coming to take your brother back to the shore, and then, darling, I’m going to come back for you. Sweetheart, don’t be afraid. Remember how Daddy taught you how to float? Darling, I know you remember? Just turn on your back, rest, and tread the water like it’s a bed, and just float. And, sweetheart, you can just float and float and float, as long as you want.” Straining to remain calm, he said, “Remember, what I want you to do, sweetheart, just turn on your back and float. I’m going to take your brother to the shore, and then, darling, I’ll come back for you.” With a prayer in his heart, he fought the tide, never taking his eye off his son. He couldn’t see his daughter, and hoped she was still floating on her back like he told her.

Exhausted, he reached the boy, kissed him, and carried him to shore, his small arms wrapped tightly around his father’s neck. Setting his son on the sand, he turned back to the ocean, scanning for his daughter. She was nowhere in sight. Panic rising, he shouted, “Somebody, come! My daughter’s out there! I need Help!” Men rushed

to the water, launching boats to search the vast ocean for the little girl. Far out, to their amazement, they found her floating on her back, gazing at the sky, calm as could be. Her father, tears in his eyes, pulled her into the boat and embraced her. “Sweetheart, I’m so proud of you,” he said. “You were so brave.”

Do you know what she said to her father? She looked at him, smiled, and said, “Daddy, you told me I could float as long as I wanted to, and you told me that you were going to come back for me. And, Daddy, I was just doing what you told me to do until you came.

Like this daughter who clung to her father’s promise, trusting he would return as she obeyed by floating in that vast ocean, the faithful servants trusted that the nobleman would return and poured their hearts into multiplying their minas. Their faith didn’t sit still—it sparked diligent action. In the same way, God entrusts us with precious gifts—time, talents, opportunities—to advance His kingdom. Faithful stewardship means pouring out our lives to share the gospel, serve others, and shine for His glory. When Jesus returns, will we stand before our King and Savior, hearing His commendation, and say with humble joy, “You said you would come for me, so I was just doing what you told me until you came”?

Beloved, let me ask you: Are you multiplying what God has given you, or waiting passively? Perhaps it’s investing in a ministry, mentoring a young believer, or sharing your faith at work. Remember, like Zacchaeus climbing his tree in faith to see Jesus (Luke 19:1–10), and receiving more than He could ever dream of, when we respond to the light God gives, He grants more. Don’t delay obedience—seize opportunities to invest faithfully, and watch God entrust you with more.

Faithful servants gain eternal reward, but some squander what they’re given, which brings us to our final point:

### **3. The Wasteful Servant Suffers Loss**

Unlike the faithful servants, the third servant hides his mina because he feared the nobleman’s severity. He replied: “*I was afraid of you,*

*because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow” (vv. 20–21). Why didn’t he invest?*

I submit to you that he mischaracterized the nobleman, seeing him as harsh and demanding, so he played it safe, avoiding any risk of failure. His fear-driven reasoning paralyzed him, leading to inaction rather than trust. The nobleman rebukes him, saying: *“I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest”* (vv. 22–23)?

In other words, even a low-risk investment would have shown some faith, but his distrust revealed a deeper issue: his actions exposed what he truly believed about the nobleman. And His failure to act cost him dearly. Again, Jesus said: *“I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”* (v. 26).

Beloved, our actions reveal what we truly believe about God’s character—whether we will trust His goodness and promises or cower in fear or do our own thing. How we view God will affect our service for God. Everything we truly believe, we obey. Everything else is just religious talk.

As I mentioned earlier, I almost passed on a divine opportunity to share my testimony live on Moody Radio, reasoning I wasn’t qualified. If I had listened to my fears, instead of turning my eyes upon Jesus, and embraced His promises, I would have missed a divine opportunity for God to work through my weakness, just as the servant missed his chance by burying his mina. In fact, had I passed on opportunities years ago that opened more doors, the *Chris Fabry Live* interview and the miracles of redemption I wrote about in my book *Collateral Blessings*, would have never happened.

As one commentator explains, this is one of the unchanging laws of life: “To him who has, more will be given; from him who has not, what he has will be taken away.” Work out at the gym, for example, and you get in shape; stop, and your strength fades. Learn Spanish and

practice speaking it regularly, and you get fluent at it; neglect it, and you forget the words. Likewise, in the Christian life, we either use God's gifts—time, talents, or opportunities—and grow stronger or neglect them and slip back. There's no standing still—advance, like the father taking his boy to the shore, or you will drift.

Again, this kingdom principle has implications now and in eternity. As Paul also warned in 1 Corinthians 3:13–15, our works will be tested by fire; unfaithful stewards may suffer loss, though are saved by grace.

This brings to mind a powerful scene from the film *Schindler's List*. Oskar Schindler, a German businessman, was driven solely by profit. He seized an opportunity in the chaos of World War II to open a factory in Nazi-occupied Poland to make materials for the German army by using cheap Jewish labor from the Krakow ghetto. He dined and wined Nazi officials, using his charm and his gold Nazi pin to secure contracts. But then he witnessed firsthand the brutality of the Holocaust—families devastated, children marched to death camps, smoke rising from the crematoria. Something shifted in him. Schindler began to act with fierce determination. He bribed officials, forged documents, and spent his fortune to protect Jewish workers, claiming they were “essential” to his factory. He risked his life, his wealth, and his status to save over 1,200 men, women, and children from the gas chambers. By the end of the war, he had nothing left—no money, no factory—he had practically given everything to save lives. In the film's final scene, the war has ended, and Schindler stands surrounded by the Jewish workers he saved, now free from the horrors of the Holocaust. As he prepares to flee as a war criminal, he's overcome with emotion, realizing the true value of his material possessions. The burden he carried, the suppression of evil, comes to an end, and the weight of what he's done—and what he didn't do—overwhelms him. He looks at Stern, his friend and factory manager, and whispers, “I could've got more, I could have got more. I didn't do enough.” He looks at his possessions and breaks down. “This car,” he sobs, “why did I keep the car? Ten people right there. Ten people... Ten more lives.” He points to his gold Nazi pin, gleaming in the light. “This pin. Two people. This is gold. Two more people. They would've given me



two for it—at least one. One more person... A person, Stern. For this... I could've saved one more, and I didn't."

Like Schindler, who wept over lives he could have saved, the wasteful servant buried his mina, squandering God's trust. What about us? Will you let fear, laziness, or misplaced priorities rob you of eternal impact? When we stand before Jesus at the judgment seat of Christ, only what we've done for Him will matter. Are you hiding your gifts, perhaps neglecting to share the gospel or letting talents go to waste? Delayed obedience breeds spiritual drift. Light refused increases darkness—don't stand still; advance or slip back.

Where are you today? Have you buried gifts or opportunities? Turn to the Lord in surrender and step out in faith today—share Christ, serve others, invest in eternity. Today is a test for what God can entrust to you tomorrow.

## **Conclusion**

Brothers and sisters, unlike the wasteful servant, we must avoid the anguish of regret, like Oskar Schindler, who cried, "I could have done more." As Jesus sees the lost with a heart of compassion, and recognizes their grace potential, let's steward faithfully through His eyes. Let's invest in what matters to Him. To anyone here who has never trusted Christ, trust Him today—His death and resurrection offer you eternal life (1 Peter 3:18).

If you're a believer, don't bury your gifts. What is your mina? Is it a talent to serve with, an opportunity to share the gospel, or a need you can meet? Don't let fear hold you back and let divine opportunity pass you by. Pray for eyes to see, and faith to obey without delay, trusting that Jesus' strength is made perfect in weakness.

Oh may we be found faithful when He returns and be able to say, "Jesus, you promise you would come for me, so I was just doing what you told me to do until you came."