

“Jesus’ Investing Seminar” | Rev Josh Keller | September 26, 2021

Old Testament Reading [Isa 53:10-12](#)

53¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. **11** Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Epistle Reading [James 2:14-17](#)

2¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Gospel Reading [Luke 19:11-27](#)

19¹¹ As they heard these things, He proceeded to tell a parable, because He was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ 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.’ ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ ²⁰ Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for 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.’ ²² He said to him, ‘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? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ ²⁶ ‘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. ²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”

Introduction

Parables from the Book of Luke help us understand who we believe God is calling us to be and what we are to be like in the future. The parable we discuss this morning, Luke 19:11-27, is about the judgement, the King and the investment.

Background

1. The Judgment

- a. In telling this parable, Jesus associates Himself with the nobleman. But the nobleman is harshly judgmental, where Jesus is patient in turning His enemies to friends.
- b. Jesus is telling this parable to make His people understand that He is talking about a future, final judgment rather than an earthly, immediate judgment.
- c. In [Exodus 34](#), God describes Himself as “merciful and gracious ... but who will by no means clear the guilty.” God is committed to justice; He will judge.
- d. This parable is not about financial management. It is about not employing resources for God’s Kingdom, being scared to risk them on God’s Kingdom.

2. The King

- a. The third servant was afraid to invest his mina because he believed the nobleman, king, was a severe man and didn’t want to risk incurring his wrath.
- b. The only thing that the nobleman (king) demands is that they take responsibility for the gifts he’s given them.
- c. We shouldn’t mischaracterize Father God, our King, as being harsh and severe; fearing to invest in His eternal, sure-to-come Kingdom.

3. The Investment

- a. He (Father God) deposits “the money” (our individual gifts) into our accounts, let’s us keep the deposits and then rewards us generously beyond comparison.
- b. Jesus fully donated (invested) Himself in us. He held nothing back, He risked everything. He named Himself among nothing, the name of a guilty transgressor so that He could give us the name of righteous son and righteous daughter of God. In other words, He did not wrap Himself in a napkin.

Discuss

1. How does the parable help us envision who God is calling us to be; are to be like?
2. Can you see how the parable might make some feel uncomfortable, squirm?
3. Jesus is telling this parable somewhat associating Himself with the nobleman. How?
4. Discuss V26 as it applies to the parable (to everyone who has, more will be given).
5. How does God expect that we take responsibility for the gifts we’ve been given?
6. How can we avoid wrapping ourselves in napkins?
7. Discuss Christ’s call to ASPC: Called to live and to love as the body of Christ.

Conclusion/Application

•Do not wrap yourself in a napkin. Invest yourself. Risk, give yourself, your time, your talents, your resources. You are investing in God’s eternal, sure-to-come Kingdom. It’s a safe bet it’s not going anywhere, it’s the end of all things. There will be a day when the tab comes due. No one’s able to outrun it, no one can ultimately run away from everything.

•We will all be called to account for what we have done with our minas. Remember, that mina was given to you by the King who has held nothing back from you. He is just but He is not severe. He has paid your debt, made you righteous and holy, already given all of Himself to you. So, keep your eyes on Him. Joyfully donate yourself to Him, His Kingdom.