



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 22: Do Business Till I Come

Luke 19:13 *Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, “Engage in business until I come.” (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Yesterday’s parable was about being ready inwardly; today’s is about being productive outwardly. A nobleman is going away to receive a kingdom, and before he leaves he entrusts his servants with resources and gives them one clear instruction: “Engage in business until I come.” Older translations render it more memorably; “Occupy until I come.” In other words, while I am away, don’t just wait passively; work, be faithful and productive with what I have given you. Put what I’ve given you to good use, and be found doing so when I return.

This corrects a common misunderstanding about expectancy. Some people imagine that living for Christ’s return means staring at the sky, disengaging from ordinary life, waiting idly for the end. Jesus teaches the exact opposite. The expectant servant is the busy servant. Not frantic or anxious but faithfully investing everything the Master has entrusted to him: his gifts, his time, his opportunities, his influence. Expectancy doesn’t pull us out of useful work; it focuses our work with eternal purpose. Warren Wiersbe captured the balance well: we are to live with one eye on our present duty and one eye on Christ’s return, refusing to let either crowd out the other.

The word behind “engage in business” carries the idea of trading, working, putting capital to productive use. The Master isn’t looking for servants who merely preserved what He gave them; (remember, in the fuller parable, the servant who simply buried his mina for safekeeping was rebuked). He’s looking for servants who use their gifts with eagerness and effectiveness as they wait with urgency. Who took what they were given and made it fruitful for the King while He was away. The reward at His return is proportioned to faithful, active stewardship.

For our theme, this reframes what a holy life should actually look like. Holiness is not merely the avoidance of evil, as though the ideal Christian is one who simply keeps his hands clean and does nothing. True holiness is also active; it invests, it serves, it builds, and it bears fruit. The expectant heart doesn't ask only "How do I stay unstained until He comes?" but "How do I make the most of everything He's given me before He comes?" So take inventory of what the Master has placed in your hands and get to work. He is coming back, and there is kingdom business to be done in the meantime.

TAKE AWAY

Expectancy isn't idle sky-gazing; it's faithful work. Take stock of what the Master has entrusted to you and put it to use today. He's coming back to give an accounting of what you did with it.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you invest your gifts, time, and opportunities for His kingdom today, working faithfully until He comes.