

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"WASTED OR WELL DONE" | LUKE 19: 11-27 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

If you were given a small amount of money, how would you try to make the most of it?

"Correction" (Luke 19: 11-12)

Many people thought the kingdom of God would come immediately and Jesus corrects that expectation, showing there will be a time between his first coming and second. **What are other expectations that people have about Jesus that are incorrect? How can God use the process of correcting them to bring people closer to Him?**

"Calling" (Luke 19: 13-26)

Jesus tells a parable about a nobleman who gives 10 servants a small amount of money each while he is away. Some increase the money and are given bigger responsibilities while 1 servant does nothing and he is rebuked. **What does this show about what Christ followers are to do with the life they've been given? What prevents people from living that life for Jesus?**

"Consequences" (Luke 19: 27)

Jesus ends the parable with all the people who hated the King being destroyed, showing that there will be a final judgement at His Second Coming. **What are ways people show they are against Jesus?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

This parable highlights the difference between people live in a way that shows they want Jesus to return as King and people who live in a way that shows they don't want Jesus to be in charge. **What does your lifestyle say about who is in charge of your life? What does it say about what you are living for or where you are going?**

Wasted or Well Done

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Lar: Men's. CK. Vol Op. Fellowship Night. Pantry. Missions Prayer.
- B. Israel Trip: we leave tomorrow morning.
- C. Slide8 Prayer: Col.1:9,10 *So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.*

II. Slide9a Intro: Wasted or Well Done.

- A. Today, we like everything quick, efficient, and easy.
 1. This is the day of fast food, high speed, Internet Amazon getting our stuff to our door in a day. DoorDash *dashing* our food to us. We like instant success, instant satisfaction, instant progress, instant relief.
 2. But the kingdom Jesus speaks of ... doesn't come *immediately*. Nope, He wants you in it for the long-haul.
 3. At this time expectations of messiah were sky high. They thought surely when He reaches Jerusalem that will be the time He starts his kingdom (It's almost Passover, Josephus says almost 2 mill people in town for it) Always the energy at Passover, somethings going to happen!
 - a) So he wants to clarify what His kingdom brings, and what He expects us to be.
 - b) There is an "*in between time*" (between his first and second coming). This parable is about what we are to do in between this time. We are to be about the Kings business.
- B. What we are about to read was as if he lifted right out of the newspaper of the day.
 1. It was very normal for a mid-level ruler to have to travel to Rome to have kingship conferred on him, and to receive his little kingdom.

2. **Maybe some were still thinking about what happened about 30 years earlier.** Before Herod the Great died he split his kingdom up between his **Slide9b** sons. Giving Judea & Galilee to his son Archelaus, but they were subject to Roman approval. Archelaus had to go to Rome to receive his kingdom. Right before he left there was a riot in the temple and he had over 3000 Jews slaughtered. Jews there did not want to be ruled by Herod the Great nor his son. So they sent a delegation of 50 men to Rome to appeal Caesar's decision, but they lost their appeal, Archelaus became king, and he made his palace in Jericho, where Jesus just came from.

a) There are a number of echoes of this in the parable. A nobleman goes off to be appointed as king, but he is pursued by a bunch of people who oppose his reign. But when everything is over, he receives his reign, returns, and has all those that who opposed him, slaughtered in front of him.

b) If a mild opposition to a mid-level king received this type of punishment, how much more to the true King with eternal devastation. The other side of our story is positive. Faithfulness to the King will be rewarded.

C. **Last thing:** this is similar, but different from the parable of the talents.

1. The parable of the **Talents** dealt with **ability** (*different* amounts were given)

2. The parable of the **Mina's** deal with **faithfulness**. (*same* amounts given)

D. **Outline:** *Correction. Calling. Consequences.*

III. **Slide10 CORRECTION: WRONG PERCEPTIONS (11,12) READ**

A. **What is the kingdom of God?** It's where everyone is living 100% for God because God is King.

1. There's no more **sin**, and no more **consequences** of sin. **There will be no more keys, you don't need to lock the house.** No more **doctors** or **dentists, counselors** or **therapists**. No more **police, lawyers, or Armed Forces**. **No more loneliness or broken relationships, or broken**

marriages, or broken homes. No more **aging** or **bereavement** or **funerals**. It is the world finally made good, with *nothing bad or sad*.

B. They thought Jesus was bringing the kingdom *immediately*.

1. They thought 1st, Jesus was going to bring in his kingdom *right there & then*. And 2nd, They could just sit back and watch it happen.

a) To which Jesus said in this parable, you're wrong on **both** counts. Matter of fact: (1) The kingdom isn't going to come yet. And (2) I will be using you *in the process* of the kingdom coming.

2. The disciples later asked, *Jesus is this the time you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?* And he basically said, *none of your business*. Then said, this is your business, *Go be my witness all around the world*.

a) It's much easier to **speculate** than **share** the gospel.

b) The study of end times can make people *fanatical, distracted, or idle*. But eschatology should make us *faithful/passionate!*

IV. Slide11 **CALLING: FAITHFULNESS IN BETWEEN THE TIMES (13-26) READ**

A. (13) 10 servants each received 1 Mina.

1. **Some say it speaks to Gifts? No**. Gifts differ for each of us, here they're all the same.

2. **Others say**, it's speaking to **The Gospel**, that Jesus wants to get out to the world.

a) That's more on the right line. **But** that seems *too narrow it down too much*.

3. **Slide12a** I think the mina stands for, "*Living the one life you have, to serve Jesus' business.*" That's the one Mina in your hand.

4. **What is Jesus' business?**

a) He's about bringing in the kingdom of God. Where everyone will be living 100%, **and** willingly living for God as king.

b) He's about bringing *more people* onto His side through the gospel.

And then To see them bring every area of their lives more under his rule. **To**

build us together into local churches. To give people out there some idea imperfectly of what His kingdom going to be like. To see his churches make an impact on society around them, and all of that happening worldwide. That basically is a summary of “Jesus’ business.

B. Slide12b An advertisement said, “*We make your business our business.*” And that’s what we’re to be about.

C. (14) Hated him - base layer of all humanity that is outside of His grace changing that.

D. (15a) Returning from the far country (after his ascension) i.e. The Second Coming.

E. (15b) What they had gained by doing business -

1. He will ask each of us, How did you live the one life I gave you to serve My business?

F. Slide13a 1ST AND 2ND SERVANT (16-19)

G. Well done, good servant - In a church graveyard over in England, a gravestone reads, “*In memory of Captain James Harvey died 23 of April 1786, tragically shot and killed by an accidental discharge of his pistol, while in the hands of his personal attendant. And the Bible text underneath read, Lk.19:27 ‘Well done, good servant.’*”

1. 1st guy takes his 1 mina & made 10 more out of it. So he becomes Mayor McCheese over 10 cities. The 2nd guy, 1 becomes 5, so over 5.
2. Great Principle of Christian Living: faithfulness, in ordinary life, brings about infinitely great results by the grace of God.
3. We also note, the master begin by entrusting his servants with money, and concluded with giving them charge over cities. He began buy entrusting them with things, then over people. How they served exposed how they'd lead.

H. So back in vs.15b he asked what they had *gained by doing business*? So what does that look like in real life? I’ll give a few examples:

1. Jesus brings one person to know Him who had nothing. And then uses **her** to raise money, and raise up volunteers, to bring many **homeless** off the streets in **our Valley**. I'm talking about 20 years of ministry by Ann Unmacht and her Project Touch.
2. Or, Jesus brings one person to know him, and they have a heart to save the **unborn**. So they start *Elsinore Valley Pregnancy Resource Center*, or *Birth Choice of Temecula*. **One life, that saves many lives**.
3. Or, Jesus brings a construction worker to know him, and he has brought other guys in construction to the saving knowledge of Jesus, by both his work ethic and the sharing of his love for Jesus to those around him.

I. **Slide13b 3RD SERVANT** (20-26)

- J. **Professing** to be a Christian, **but not doing** anything to be *about His business*.
1. He thinks Jesus has *impossibly high hard expectations*.
 2. So seeing the bar is too high, he end up **doing nothing**. **But** this is not what Jesus is like. **He could have done something**.
 3. **Risk your life**, and get more than you ever dreamed of.
Play it safe and you end up empty-handed. *Use It or Lose It!*
 - a) Remember what you're given, isn't yours in the first place. It's all **His**.
 4. **How was the first guy able to do it?** *because you have been faithful in a very little*.
 - a) A Mina wasn't a bunch of money. Maybe He was speaking to the example of *... just a normal life!*
 - b) Just be faithful in **your** relatively normal life **and my** relatively normal life.
Stewarding our ordinary time, and gifts, and abilities faithfully in serving his business.
 5. We love saying, I'm not an evangelist, I'm no Billy Graham, thinking this excuses us. **But** he's not asking you to be someone else, but he's asking **you** to be **you**, with how he made you **and the gifts** He's given you.

a) Maybe it's just inviting people to church events.

b) Just be faithful as **you**, **now**.

c) **But** *I'm not as **wealthy** as some, I can't give up large amount of money.*

Be faithful to what you **have**, **not** what you **haven't**, **or** to what **others have**.

d) **And** if you **do** have **plenty**, then you need to remember *the more that we have is the more that we have* to serve his kingdom business, **and** not just our luxury's or our investments.

e) So Jesus is not calling us here to what is *impossibly hard* or *beyond us*. He's calling **you** to be faithful as **you**, **and** **me** to be faithful as **me**.

6. **10 city man & 5 city man**, both got a **well done!** It's because He's given them different gifts and different opportunities.

K. **Servant #3** seems to be one who is **professing** to be a believer. **But** the evidence isn't in what you **call yourself** **but** what you actually **do**.

L. The implication was that this servant **did not** really expect the king to come back.

1. He was not at all concerned about the king's **return**, **so** he did not bother with the king's **business**.

M. **Am I funding** the advancement of the gospel & His kingdom? Am I relieving need in Jesus name?

1. We don't do these things to **earn favor** from God, we know that salvation is all of **grace** & **forgiveness**.

2. What we **do** is evidence of **whether or not we have come into that relationship yet**.

V. Slide14a **CONSEQUENCES: WARNING ON REJECTING HIS KINGSHIP (27) READ**

A. **Now** we prefer that **Jesus** would end there ... **but no** he adds vs. 27 which is pretty brutal.

1. **Jesus, did you have to go and say it like that?** **But** he was simply using *the imagery of the day*. This is what Rome did when you rebelled against Rome.

2. Jesus is not like Herod, or other wicked kings, **but** He is a **King**.
 And though he's tolerating millions right now rejecting Him. He is **not**
 going to tolerate that forever. *He is Coming to wrap up humanity.*

B. **Slide14b** So this is our parable, the reminder for us to *engage in kingdom business*,
 based on **who you are**, based on **what He has given you**.

1. And it's His **promise** to shower you with the wonderful epitaph over your
 life (if we are faithful) *well done, good servant!*

C. There is an **old Christian** who wrote this at the end of his life. *Although I trust I am
 forgiven and saved by the Lord, I fear that I am have done little of what I could
 Slide14c have done to serve Him, and my epitaph will be, "Saved Soul, Waisted
 Life."*

1. Friends, Jesus tells us this parable to *spare us that type of regret*.
Slide14d So it **won't say**, *Wasted*, but instead, *Well done!*

D. Keywords: parable, faithfulness.

E. **Reflections:**

1. **Authority** - **Who** is in charge of your life?
2. **Purpose** - **What** are you living for?
3. **Destiny** - **Where** are you going?