

*“Use It or Loose It!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. In the days before modern harbors, a **ship** had to wait for the **flood tide** before it could make it to port. The term for this situation in Latin was *ob portu*, that is, a **ship standing over off a port**, waiting for the moment when it could ride the turn of the tide to harbor. The English word **opportunity** is derived from this original meaning. The captain and the crew were ready and waiting for that one moment for they knew that **if they missed it, they would have to wait for another tide to come in**. Shakespeare turned this background of the exact meaning of opportunity into one of his most famous passages. **It’s from Julius Caesar, Act 4, Scene 3:**  
 There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
 Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat; And we must take the current when it serves, Or lose our ventures. **[Missed Opportunities!]**
- 1.2. If **last week** was *The Day of Salvation!* (Zacchaeus 19:1-9)  
 And **next week** is *The Day of Visitation!* (Palm Sunday 19:28-44)  
**Then this week** is *The Day of Evaluation!* (19:11-27)
- 1.3. There are **3 possible relationships** with the King(Jesus):
  - 1.3.1. [1] **Reject** His rule & be an enemy, but that leads to **judgment**.
  - 1.3.2. [2] **Accept** His rule & be **unfaithful**, but that leads to **loss of reward**.
  - 1.3.3. [3] **Accept** His rule, do His will faithfully, & **receive His reward**.
- 1.4. **Key:** you are not to *protect* what He gives, but to *invest* it for His glory.
  - 1.4.1. This section deals with present responsibilities of the followers of Jesus; & about future judgments.

## 2. **ASSIGNMENTS! (11-14)**

- 2.1. The parable of the **10 Minas/Pounds**.
  - 2.1.1. Also, it is **similar to** but **different from** “The parable of the **Talents**”.
  - 2.1.2. The shekel was the basic unit of weight in the Hebrew system.
    - 2.1.2.1. Multiples of the **Shekel** was: the **Mina** & the **Talent**.
    - 2.1.2.2. **Talent** = 3,000 Shekels; **Mina** = 50 Shekels.
- 2.2. Parable of **Talents** dealt w/**ability**(diff amounts given); Parable of **Minas** deal w/**Faithfulness!**
  - 2.2.1. The **talents** represent **opportunities** to use **ability**; and since we all have **different abilities**, we are given **different opportunities**.

- 2.3. Jesus gave this parable to correct a false conception, that He was going to set up the Kingdom **immediately**; & to teach that His supreme requirement of His followers is **faithfulness**.
- 2.3.1. Since they were close to Jerusalem, Jesus wanted to dispel any disappointment on the part of His followers.
- 2.3.2. Also, **Passover** was right around the corner, where **Josephus** tells us that about **2 million** people would descend upon Jerusalem & its surrounding areas.
- 2.3.2.1. Passover always the energy that “*something was going to happen*”!
- 2.4. **WHY THE NOBLEMAN IS LEAVING!** (12)
- 2.5. He’s **leaving** to be crowned King.
- 2.5.1. Rome, being the rulers of all Israel & Syria, would **appoint natives** to rule over small territories. - They were **tetrarchs** who ruled in the name of **Caesar**. - Often these positions were **insecure**, & depended largely on **favours** received from the new ruler. - This often times caused **special trips to Rome** to secure their kingdom & rule.
- 2.6. After **Herod the Great’s** death, his kingdom was divided among 3 of his sons. **Philip** had East of Jordan, & between Caesarea Philippi and Bethabara; **Antipas** had Galilee and Peraea; while **Archelaus** had Judea and Samaria.
- 2.6.1. Jericho was the site of **Archelaus’ palace**.
- 2.6.2. Herod had died, & Archelaus had to **journey to Rome to obtain the kingdom** from Emperor Augustus.
- 2.7. **Nobleman**, or officials of high rank, would entrust their entire business to their servants.
- 2.7.1. At a certain time of the year he would return & demand an accounting for their transactions, all profits & losses.
- 2.7.2. If a **servant** was to **lose** through carelessness he would be **held responsible**, personal property confiscated, maybe even discharged.
- 2.7.2.1. This would even cause some to just hide it & return it later.
- 2.8. His **absence** was of course the time between the **Ascension & His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**
- 2.9. **WHAT THE NOBLEMAN IS LEAVING!** (13)
- 2.10. **His servants** – Note the Lord’s claim on our lives.
- 2.11. He leaves each servant **1 Mina** & orders each to wisely invest that \$.
- 2.11.1. Each servant gets an equal amount. (He’s an equal opportunity employer!)
- 2.11.2. **To every man a pound!**
- 2.11.3. **It’s the little things: Summer showers** are more effective than **hurricanes**, but they get no publicity.

- 2.12. **Do business till I come** – (ESV) “*engage in business till I come*”. Trade w/it; keep it busy.
- 2.13. What business did he leave us behind?
- 2.13.1. He has entrusted us with **the gospel**. He wants us to multiply His message so the **entire world** will hear it.
- 2.13.2. It is our obligation to be **faithful stewards** of the message He has entrusted to us, until Jesus comes again.
- 2.13.2.1. “According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.” 1 Tim. 1:11
- 2.13.3. God wants us to **multiply** His message so that the whole world will hear.
- 2.14. **HOW THE PEOPLE FEEL!** (14)
- 2.15. Another group of people did not want him to be king.
- 2.15.1. This group represented the **religious leaders** in particular; and **the nation** in general.
- 2.16. **Historically:** The Jews were very hostile to Archelaus & did this very thing against him, by sending a delegation to Rome.
- 2.16.1. This delegation informed the Emperor they didn’t want him.
- 2.16.2. The difference with Jesus is in the very next verse He explains, HE WAS going to return!

### 3. **ACCOUNTING! (15-27)**

- 3.1. **1<sup>st</sup> SERVANT!** (15-17)
- 3.2. (15) Time for the **P & L statement** (Profit & Loss).
- 3.3. **Report** – His Mina earned **10 more**. **Reward** – He is given charge over **10 cities**.
- 3.4. **Great principle of Christian living:** Faithfulness in ordinary life brings about infinitely great results by the grace of God.
- 3.5. **2<sup>nd</sup> SERVANT!** (18,19)
- 3.6. **Report** – His Mina earned **5 more**. **Reward** - He is given charge over **5 cities**.
- 3.7. **The Christian worker who does 2<sup>nd</sup> best** –
- 3.7.1. Maybe like Rom.16:12 “Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have **labored** in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who **labored much** in the Lord.”
- 3.7.2. **Also see** Neh.3:5 [context: rebuilding walls of Jerusalem by family/group]
- 3.7.3. (5b) the “nobles” of Tekoah. {little town in Judah}
- 3.7.4. **They didn’t put their “shoulders” to the work of their Lord!**
- 3.7.4.1. **Q:** What would keep a **ruler** from helping out? (Pride. Too low of a job for them to do. “My employees can’t see me humble myself to this place, they’ll lose respect for me!”)
- 3.7.4.2. **Q:** Any areas that you are too good for?
- 3.7.4.3. Here also is the **contrast** of the rest from Tekoah.

- 3.7.5. (5a) The “men” from Tekoah were very hard workers.
- 3.7.5.1. **Example:** Back in the mid-70’s our family helped out a Vietnamese family get settled here in Amer. My dad had a Catering Company & so hired **Mr. Nguyen**. He was asked once to “clean the parking lot”. **My dad returned to find a 10x10 square sparkling white!** (He used a small hand brush) **What an incredible work ethic!**
- 3.7.5.2. **Q:** How is your work ethic?
- 3.8. **3<sup>rd</sup> SERVANT!** (20-26)
- 3.9. **Report** – He **hid** his Mina, & has **no increase** to report.
- 3.10. **Rebuke** – His Mina is **taken away**, & the servant is **sent away** in disgrace.
- 3.11. Oh, the handkerchiefs that are wrapping up the pounds of Jesus in the world today.
- 3.11.1. **He refused the responsibility.**
- 3.12. **It was carefully kept** – not foolishly spent. [He didn’t solicit a prostitute, didn’t steal \$, didn’t...]
- 3.12.1. **It wasn’t what he did, but what he didn’t do!**
- 3.12.2. Here is **inactivity** in its finest hour!
- 3.12.3. In the parable of the talents in Mt.25:26, Jesus called the man there who hid his talent in the ground a “**wicked & lazy servant**”.
- 3.12.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> class Christians do the same with the Gospel.
- 3.12.4.1. **They keep it well kept & well hidden.**
- 3.12.4.2. **They learn, study, & become expert in the gospel.**
- 3.12.4.3. Then **seal it** in a glass case, & **bury it** deep within their handkerchief heart. Ready to **return it** to its original owner.
- 3.13. (21) The unfaithful servant had no excuse; his fear **paralyzed him** when it should have **mobilized him** into service!<sup>1</sup>
- 3.13.1. Big difference in the **fear of God** & being **afraid of God!**
- 3.13.2. The **fear of God** sets us free to live; **being afraid of God** paralyzes us & reduces us to existing.
- 3.14. **His justification?** He distrusted his Master’s character. (blame shifting)
- 3.14.1. Great, so you **preserved** the gospel & **missed** its Owner!
- 3.15. (23) If he were right then he should have at least **banked** the money - then the king would have received his money back with interest.
- 3.15.1. The implication was that the servant **didn’t really expect the king to come back.**
- 3.15.2. He wasn’t at all concerned about the **king’s return**, so he didn’t bother with **the king’s business.** ☹

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Outlines; Luke 19.

- 3.16. To Christian's, this is concerning distortion of character; non-use of opportunity; neglect of what we possess (even w/o glaring sin).
- 3.16.1. Some have asked, "What must I do to miss out on rewards? Answer, **"nothing"**!
- 3.17. They will be left with **nothing** but their own **salvation**.
- 3.17.1. Here is the **"being saved so as by fire"**!
- 3.18. (24-26) **Use it, or lose it!**
- 3.19. **Q: Why given to the one who has 10?** [why not even it up better, give to the other guy]
- 3.19.1. They felt the same way (25).
- 3.19.2. We like **equity**, all things to **even out** in the end!
- 3.19.3. **If God can help more people by entrusting **you**, w/far more than He gives to **me**, He will.<sup>2</sup>**
- 3.19.4. **It's not about **how much** you or I get; it is about **what we will do** with what we have!!!**
- 3.19.5. **Small stuff matters!** – The great things of God come out of the small acts of faithfulness.
- 3.19.5.1. The Master began by entrusting His servants with **money** & concluded with giving them charge over **cities**.
- 3.19.5.2. He began by entrusting them with **things**, then over **people!**
- 3.19.5.3. **How they **served** exposed how they'd **lead!****
- 3.20. The **difference** between the 3 guys was due to **faithfulness** or *lack of it!*
- 3.20.1. God's gifts are intended for **service**, not for **selfishness**, & definitely not for **shrinking**.
- 3.21. **Our position is one of: personal responsibility; full liberty; ample opportunity; & future accountability.**
- 3.22. **THE LAST GROUP!** (27)
- 3.23. This group didn't have anything to do with the servants above.
- 3.24. Their hostility was **futile** & **fatal**. {destruction of Jerusalem in less than 40 yrs.}
- 3.25. **Death & destruction** is always the end of those at enmity w/God.
- 3.26. **Q:** What group are you in? Have you been faithful with being entrusted with the Gospel? How well could you articulate the gospel? How comfortable are you with sharing it?
- 3.27. In 1883 the Marines adopted the motto *Semper Fidelis* Latin for *forever faithful*.
- 3.27.1. Wouldn't it be right for us to adopt the same? ***Semper Fi!***
- 3.27.2. You have 1 Mina... ***Use it or Lose it!***

<sup>2</sup> Erwin McManus; Uprising; pg.188.