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 favors 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 2nd 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.
2.13. 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. 1st 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. 2nd 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 2nd 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 loose 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. **3rd 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. 2nd 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!¹
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.

¹ 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. ²

3.19.4. It’s not about how much you or I get; it is about what we will do with what we have!!!


3.19.5.1. 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 s to adopt the same? Semper Fi!

3.27.2. You have 1 Mina… Use it or Lose it!

² Erwin McManus; Uprising; pg.188.