



Kingdom Business

Luke 19:11-27

Parables of Jesus

This parable is similar to another parable that Jesus taught in Matthew 25:14-30. But they were told by Jesus at different times and places in his ministry. This lesson will focus on the parable in Luke as it has a slightly different focal point.

This parable is told after Jesus met with Zacchaeus, and Jesus spoke this parable specifically to the people because he was near Jerusalem.

The followers of Jesus were expecting a Messiah to reinstate a physical kingdom here on the earth. They thought he would rise militarily and politically and at this particular point in time his followers thought that this was imminent.

Jesus told this parable specifically to convey to the people that he would leave for a long period before his return and before the fulfillment of a physical kingdom on earth.

The parable begins with a “certain” nobleman who goes into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and then to return.

He called ten of his servants together, and gave them ten pounds, or minas. One mina, or one pound was equal to approximately three to four months of wages. He divided this among the servants and each servant received one (Luke 19:16).

Then the nobleman said,

Occupy until I come.

This translates, do business until I come, or invest this for me. Use it to conduct business until I come back.

He is basically giving them a stipend to spend while he is gone. It is not their money, it is his. He is asking them to make wise investments with this while he is away.

But his citizens hated him, and said, we will not have this man to reign over us. Note, these are different people than his servants. This would be the citizens of his country; his future subjects.

When the nobleman returned, having received the kingdom, he commanded his servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him so he would know how much they had gained by trading, by their investments.

The first servant came and said, Lord, your pound has gained ten pounds.

Discuss:

This servant seems to be a wise investor. What do you think he might have done with his money?

Maybe he bought a building and rented it out. Maybe he opened a store and sold goods.

Maybe he started a bank and loaned money to others. Maybe he started a new business.

We do not know, except that his investment had a very good profit.



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Then the nobleman said to that servant,

You have done well. Because you have been faithful in a very little I will give you authority over ten cities.

Notice that the master calls this **very little**. This must have been a very wealthy man. He gave each several months worth of salary to invest, and he calls it “very little.”

But this man has multiplied this, and received a reward for his work; he is the ruler over ten cities.

Then the second servant came in and said, Lord, your pound has gained five pounds.

And the man said the same thing to that servant that he did to the first, and gave him authority over five cities.

Then another servant came. He said, Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a napkin, or handkerchief.

He did not lose it, he did not make a bad investment that did not yield a return. He basically did not do anything with it except set it aside and keep it safe.

Then that servant said, I was afraid of you because you are a harsh (strict, stern) man. You take what is not yours and harvest what you did not plant.

This servant seems to have a different view of the nobleman than the others. From what we saw of this nobleman, he seems to be very generous; giving a significant sum to the men to invest as they saw fit. Then he rewarded them for using money that was not even theirs in the first place.

The man is upset; he seems to be strict and harsh now.

He says, *Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant.* You knew I was harsh, taking what is not mine and harvesting what I did not plant, so why didn't you put the money in the bank? Then when I came back I could have at least had the interest?

Discuss:

“Out of your own mouth I will judge you.” What does that mean?

Could it mean that because he saw the man as harsh and strict, that he will judge him the way that he assumed?

The man is basically saying, you said it, so you will get exactly what you expected.

Then he said to the others that were standing nearby, take the money from him, and give it to the man who has ten.



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Discuss:

It seems that everyone there is waiting their turn and they can all see what everyone else has accomplished.

But the ones standing nearby said, Lord, he has ten pounds.

The other servants were basically saying, that man already has ten pounds. Why are we taking it from this guy who has hardly anything and giving it to the one who already has plenty?

But this man did not see it that way. He said,

To everyone who has, he will be given more. From him that has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away from him.

Then the man said, Bring the enemies here, the ones who did not want me to rule over them, and kill them.

Jesus in the Story



The nobleman represents Jesus.

Jesus constantly preached that the kingdom of heaven is “at hand.” That means it is approaching, coming near; joining one thing to another. His crucifixion was basically his coronation, as he received the crown of thorns and the robe. He has gone away to receive his kingdom, and through the Holy Ghost, believers reign in the kingdom with him (Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:6). But there will come a time when he will return to earth and establish a physical kingdom.

The servants represent us.

We have been given assignments and resources to carry out God’s kingdom here on earth.. Just as the servants received money to invest in business, we are to be building the kingdom until Jesus returns. We are not meant to sit idly and just wait for Jesus to return. He never intended for us to only have hope in the life to come. We are living in the kingdom now; we have things to do. We cannot afford to waste what he has given us, or disregard his assignments for each of us. We will be held accountable.

Discuss:

What are these things that God has given us? This looks different for every person.

We are all part of the body of Christ, but we all have a different part in the kingdom. The Bible talks about the different gifts that we have been given (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

This can be about any gift that you have. You may be good with people, you may be really good at making things, or math, or with computers, or maybe you can sing beautifully. You might be a wonderful cook, or maybe you love to grow plants. Maybe you’re good with animals, or maybe you love teaching children.

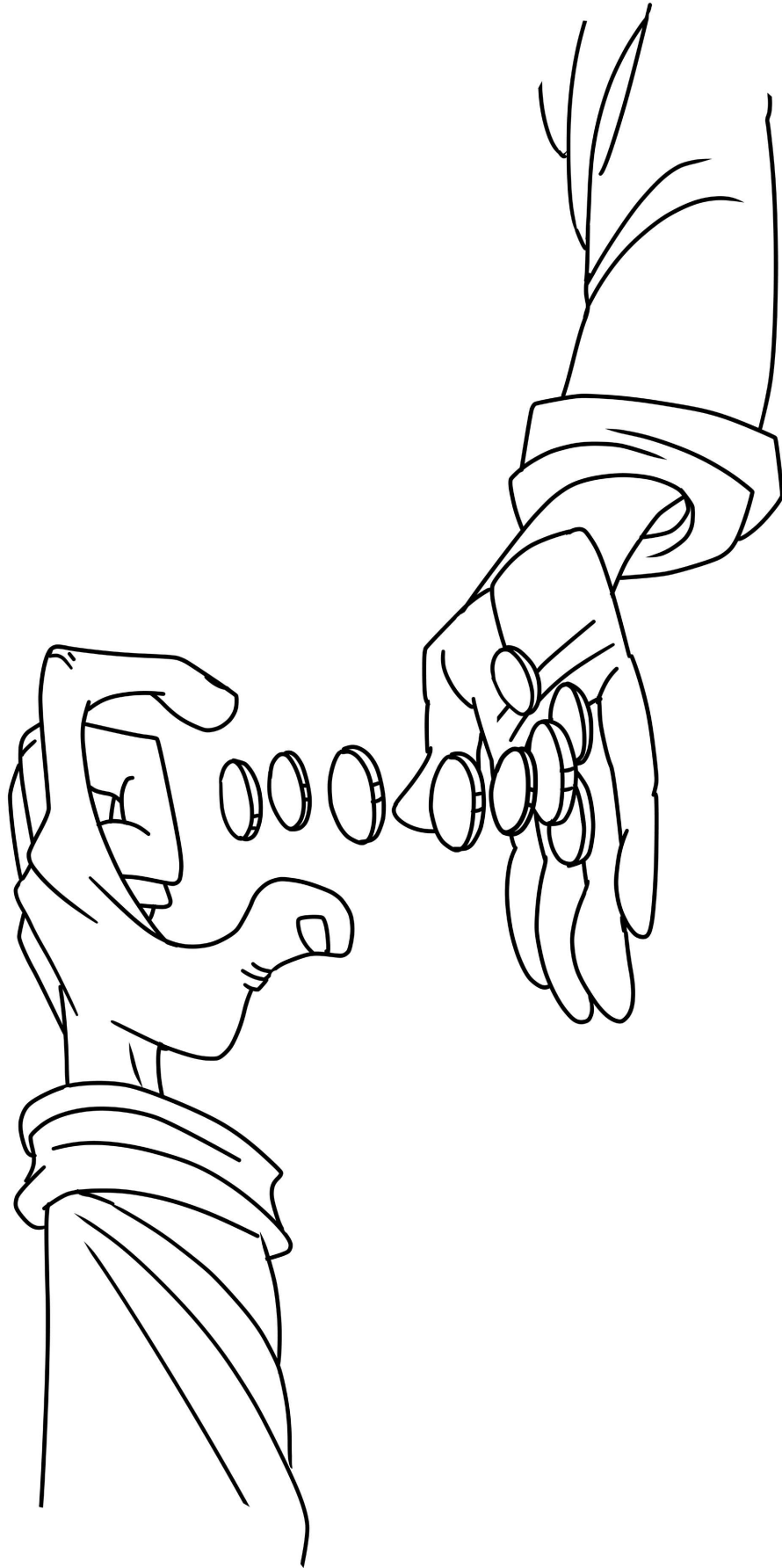
Discuss all types of talents and gifts with the students. You might even help them find their personal gifts and talents and talk about possible ways to use those for the kingdom of God.

Everything points to Jesus, and we do it for him.

But, whatever you do, do it for the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The citizens represent the people who do not accept Jesus as Lord and King.

These people were not allowed to enter the kingdom and suffered death.



Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

41. The Wicked Farmers

1. What did the farmers do to the first servant that the man sent?
2. What did they do to the other servants?
3. Who did the man finally decide to send?
4. Where did the servants take the son?
5. What did the servants do to the son?

Isaiah 28:16

...Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.

42. Kingdom Business

1. What did the first servant do with the money?
2. Where did the last servant put the money?
3. What did the king do with the last servant's money?

Luke 19:26

For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

43. Improperly Dressed

Read John 14:6

1. Jesus is always full of?
2. Jesus is not death, he is always?
3. What is the ONLY way to get to God the Father?

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

44. Arrested!

1. In Ezekiel 1:28, what happened when he saw the glory of the Lord?
2. In Psalm 41:9, who betrayed (lifted up his heel)?
3. In Matthew 26:50, what did Jesus call Judas?

Psalm 103:2-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies...