

Do Your Job

Luke 19:11-27

How many of us love our jobs? How many of us love doing every part of our jobs?

Before we read it, remember the context. Jesus had visited Jericho, healed a blind man, visited with Zacchaeus, and now He was heading toward Jerusalem. Jericho is 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest city in the world, and Jerusalem is about 2,500 feet above sea level. This 20-mile road was an uphill climb in more ways than one because Jesus knew that within a week He would be arrested, tortured, and crucified.

Don't get this parable confused with the Parable of the Talents recorded in the gospel of Matthew. There are many similarities between the two parables, but there are also some real differences. Parable of the Talents points out that we are all different. We have different gifts & different talents.

But in this parable, everybody received the same thing. Each servant received one pound (mina), which equals about 3 month's wages. Jesus emphasizes that each servant received the same thing.

Read Luke 19:11

There are two reasons given in verse 11 for the telling of this parable which indicate that Jesus is teaching an important lesson here.

First, in vs. 11, Luke says that Jesus told the parable "**because He was nigh Jerusalem.**"

Jesus knew that as soon as He entered Jerusalem all the frenzied events of the last week of His life would begin. So, before that happened, Jesus took this last opportunity to teach them an important lesson.

Second, also in verse 11 Jesus told them this parable because "**the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.**"

The apostles were convinced that once they entered Jerusalem, that the wonderful kingdom they had been dreaming about would become reality. They were sure that would happen.

They had been following Jesus for 3 years. They had seen Him perform miracles. Demons yielded to Him. Diseases were cured, hungry people fed, & the dead raised. They were convinced He could do anything He wanted to do.

So, it was natural for them to think that now their kingdom would begin & Jesus would be the King. But Jesus says, "Don't expect a coronation, because that is not going to happen. Instead, get ready for rejection. There will be a crucifixion instead of a coronation."

Can't we also get caught up in the frenzy? We look forward to the physical kingdom of God to be established on earth. The church is the bride of Christ, we are called to be ready and watching.

But while we are ready and watching, we must not forget to be working! In this parable each servant was given the same amount to do the work, Time, Truth and Opportunity.

Three Attitudes that we see towards "Occupy till I come," stay busy.

I. You are NOT my BOSS! (verse 14)

- **Read verse 14**

- The first attitude is, "We don't want Jesus to be our ruler. We do not want Him interfering in our lives. We are doing fine just the way we are."
- So, leave us alone. Let us live the way we want to live. We don't need Him & we don't want Him!"
- How many of us shout out inside, "You are NOT my boss!" Maybe to our real boss, or our kids.
- By rejecting the king (Jesus), they hope to escape responsibility for how they live. They may think they are escaping responsibility, but they will never escape their punishment.
- They did not want Jesus as their king then, & many people do not want Jesus to be their King now.
- There are people who take the gift of life from God & say, "We'll take care of ourselves. We do not want any advice. So, leave us alone!" They don't want the king; therefore, they will not be a part of His kingdom.

II. I was AFRAID, so I did not even try! (verses 20-23)

- **Read verse 20-21**

- Can you imagine dropping something off to be fixed, to only come back later and see nothing being done with it? (telling kids to clean up and come home and it not being done)
- Or buying someone a gift, wrapping it, giving it to them to later see it sitting still wrapped on a shelf? (buying kids clothes that sit with the tags on them)
- Imagine how God must feel when you carelessly treat His gift to you.

- **Read verses 22-23**

- Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?
- He called him a "wicked servant." As we look at this man, we begin to feel sorry for him. What did he do wrong? He didn't embezzle the money. He wasn't dishonest.
- He just didn't do what his master had told him to do. He didn't put the money to work. He didn't invest it in anything worthwhile. He just didn't do anything with what his master had given him. And his excuse was, "I was afraid."
- Jesus says, "If you were really afraid of me, then why didn't you do what I told you to do?" It seems that Jesus is saying, "You say out of one side of your mouth, 'I took you seriously,' but your actions say, 'I'm not really afraid enough to make me do what you say. I'm going to ignore your instructions.'"
- God has given us the gift of life. He has given us time; he has given us truth and opportunity. What are you doing with it?

Ephesians 2:10, For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- God has called His followers to fulfill His purpose through their lives.
- Do you trust God? Do you want His kingdom to grow?

- Are you willing to be faithful in using what God has entrusted to you?

III. I'll DO whatever you want me to DO. (verses 16-19)

- **Read 16-19**
- In **verse 13**, Jesus said to "Occupy till I come." "Put this money to work, stay busy, until I return"
- We must be careful that we aren't serving, doing for Jesus with the wrong intent. Make sure we aren't expecting favors or blessings for what we do in his name. Also, while serving him our lives will NOT be trouble free.
- **Reading verse 14**, I don't see any payment being promised by Jesus. Be careful expecting a payment.
- These men invested simply because they were faithful to their king. God is looking for people like that. So, when he came back & found what they had done, He rewarded them for their faithfulness.

One stormy night an elderly couple entered the lobby of a small hotel & asked for a room. The clerk said they were filled, as were all the hotels in town. "But I can't send a fine couple like you out in the rain," he said. "Would you be willing to sleep in my room?" The couple hesitated, but the clerk insisted.

The next morning when the man paid his bill, he said, "You're the kind of man who should be managing the best hotel in the United States. Someday I'll build you one to manage." The clerk smiled politely.

Several years later the clerk received a letter from the elderly man, recalling that stormy night & asking him to come to New York. A round-trip ticket was enclosed. When the clerk arrived, his host took him to the corner of 5th Avenue & 34th Street, where stood a magnificent new building.

"That," explained the man, "is the hotel I have built for you to manage." The man was William Waldorf Astor, & that hotel was the original Waldorf-Astoria. The young clerk, George C. Boldt, became its first manager.

- Never downplay the importance of what you are doing for Jesus. He sees it all. The reward for diligent service in small things is the opportunity for even greater service for our God & King, either now or in eternity.

Conclusion

1. **Those who reject Jesus as God, will be rejected.**
2. **Jesus has given us a job. (we are to be doing it until we are relieved of our post)**
3. **Jesus WILL hold us accountable.**
 - The Bible records two great judgments; "The Great White Throne Judgment" of **Revelation 20** and the "Bema Seat Judgment" of **2 Corinthians 5**.
 - The Great White Throne Judgment in **Revelation 20** is where those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire. This judgment is not for Christians but for those who reject Christ's offer of eternal life.
 - The judgment of **2 Corinthians 5** is entirely different. In **2 Corinthians 5:10** we read, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done

in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” This judgment is called the “Judgment Seat of Christ or Bema Seat Judgment” – the “Bema” (the word here translated “judgment seat”) The “judgement seat of Christ” then is not for the punishment of unbelievers but for passing out of rewards for the faithful.

4. Our Relationship with Jesus WILL be revealed by what we do or don't do!

- We are all given the same amount of time, truth, and opportunities to do the work we have been told to do.
- Fellow believer, what does your testimony reveal about your relationship with Jesus? As an employee? At home, as a husband, wife, father, and mother? As an employer of boss? As a brother or sister? Son or daughter? What about as a brother or sister in Christ?
- I can tell everyone that I am a follower, but what does my actions say?

Where are you at?

We all have been given the same, time, truth, and opportunity. What will you do with your pound?

If you say, “I will not have Jesus rule over me.” You will face an eternity in hell.

It's not what you say, but what you do! “Jesus rules my life, he is my lord and savior!” Does the evidence prove that? Does the time you live out show it? Do you live according to his truth or part his, part yours? Do you look for the opportunities he has given you to do his work?