

Parable of the ten minas

Luke 19:11-27

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Sermon audio and text available at www.waitaraanglican.com.au

Introduction

I heard a story about my father in law recently, and it was about when he was in his French class at school. When his teacher was out of the room, he made all the hanging pictures in the room crooked, because he knew that when his teacher would come back into the room, he would be the one to be asked to go and straighten up all the pictures around the room he did this so that he didn't have to do French work. Smart man, but perhaps not the best example to follow.

Can you remember what happened when your teacher left the room for a bit when you were in the school classroom? What kind of student were you when the teacher left? Were you the student that would diligently work hard and finish the task you were given, or were you the student that would immediately stop doing your class work and continue your conversation about the weekend with the friend next to you.

Well in our parable tonight, we are given a similar story, the nobleman gives his servants a task to do, the noble man leaves expecting his work

to be continued. And the main challenge for us tonight is how are you going to live while you wait for the King to return? What kind of student are you?

God's Kingdom is near?

In our parable tonight I think it's important for us to understand the context of what is happening is important.

Can you imagine walking alongside Jesus, you've just heard Jesus talk about the salvation that has come today, and he called himself the Son of Man who came to seek and to save the lost. the King, ~~the Messiah~~ has come, the time has finally come where God will intervene in human history, a time when God would overthrow all evil in the world and God will establish his perfect rule, they were expecting this to happen when they got to Jerusalem. Can you imagine them approaching Jerusalem with this sense of excitement, ~~in the next few chapters we watch the scene of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey with people shouting Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!~~

Well, It's into this scene that Jesus tells his disciples the parable that we've read tonight. And it's a parable for the people who were expecting the Kingdom of God to appear at any moment. And Jesus in telling this parable is correcting their understanding that the Kingdom

of God isn't coming as soon as they get to Jerusalem. In fact, Jesus is teaching them that they will have to wait for the Kingdom of God to fully arrive.

Now as we read this parable, we might have a bit of laugh, how could the disciples be thinking like this.. but we have a much bigger picture as to what this parable means, we can look back in history to see what the disciples did not understand as they were hearing this parable. We know that the full and final arrival of the Kingdom of God hasn't arrived, as Jesus and the disciples arrived at Jerusalem, yes he was welcomed as a King riding in on a donkey, but we also know that Jesus died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, but we are still waiting for the Kingdom of God to be fully complete.

So let's dig into this parable and find out what Jesus is teaching his disciples, because we too need to hear what Jesus says about how to live as we wait for the return of the King.

In our story we have three main roles, the first is the man of noble birth, and this man of noble birth is about to go away to another country to become King.

Now to us that might seem a little strange, why does he have to go somewhere to be made King.. well this is what happened in the time of

Roman Rule, if you were to be king of Judea, you had to go to ROME and have your appointment to be KING authorised, and then you could go back to your province and be KING. The noble man to be King in our parable represents JESUS - who we know is the King of Kings.

The other main roles in this story are the 10 servants are those who trust in Jesus, who have Jesus as their KING. I think most of us here tonight would identify to be a servant of the King.

And finally you have the group of subjects, those who hate the King and do not want Jesus to be the King of their lives.

So what does this parable teach us about living while we wait for the King to return.

God entrusts with his gifts

The first thing that we learn is that the King gives each of the 10 servants a minas each and he gives them a job to do. That is to put the mina to work until he returns.

Now the question we need to ask is what does the mina represent? ...

In those days, One minas was equivalent to 3 months pay.

So, Is the minas money? Does Jesus give each of his servants around 3 months pay? Some suggestions are that the minas are the possessions that we are given in this life, or the minas are the skills and talents we have. But when we think about this a little deeper, we need to realise that we aren't all given the same money, and we aren't all given the same talents, we aren't all given the same length of life, or the same physical or mental health. We are all different, And in fact all these things I've mentioned are given to both servants and subjects, aren't they? God gives generously all these things to both Christians and non-christians. There is truth that God calls us to be good stewards of all that we are given, and we are called to use all that we have, our money, our talents, to serve the Lord Jesus. But I think this parable is more than just about how we use our talents or money.

So what do the minas represent? Well it's given only to the servants of the King and each servant gets an equal amount,

What has been given to us who are Christians, and what has been given to us equally?? well it's the knowledge of the GOSPEL, it's the good news that Jesus has come to seek and save those who are lost. It's the message that Jesus has come to die, rise again, to bring you back into a relationship with God, so that you can live with him forever. The King has entrusted the message of God's love for us to his servants. And he's

set his servants a task. And it is to put to work the minas. to put to work the gospel.

Living Life when the King is absent...

So, as Servants of the king who have been entrusted with the gospel, How do we put the gospel to work? How do we make the message of Jesus grow?

Well, to put to work the gospel is to seek and save those who are lost by sharing the good news of Jesus. Most of us here know the truth about the gospel, but there are many people within our community who do not have this knowledge, they don't know that Jesus Christ is Lord, they don't know that he loves them, they don't know he is the coming King and Judge, but we do. And we have this gift to share. I want to us to look at our mission statement for our church

To build a community from many ages and cultures that helps people meet Jesus, trust Jesus and grow more like Jesus.

I think this mission for our church helps us to visualise what it means to put the gospel to work. We want people of all ages and cultures to meet Jesus, trust in Jesus and grow more like him. This is how God's kingdom grows isn't it?

Well, what are the ways that we can do that?

The most obvious way we can help people is by proclaiming the good news to people. It's our job to share the message with those who don't know about Jesus, to share it with our friends, family, strangers, children, and to our workmates. Have you given someone the bible or part of the bible to read, have you asked someone if they want to find out more about Jesus. That's possibly the most obvious way in which we can invest in the gospel, and sometimes it's the most terrifying and challenging. But it's not only just regurgitating two ways to live or another gospel tract, we can proclaim the good news of Jesus by the conversations we have, By the way that you share how God brings you hope and joy, even when you've gone or are going through the hardest time of your life. By sharing, why is Jesus your King? Why are you a Christian? You can speak about how God made you a kinder, more loving, more caring person, and how he's continuing to work in you. Have you thought about how you can answer these questions and share them with the people that you meet. But it's not the only way that we can put the gospel to work.

I think that Prayer is an important. Do you pray for those who do not know Jesus, do you pray for your family, friends, strangers. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to open their minds and hearts to the message of the gospel. Do you pray for the people that you've given a bible to? Do we pray for the people we know to meet Jesus, trust in Jesus and to grow

more like Jesus? Prayer helps us and reminds us to depend on God in all things. That he is the one who works through us, and he is the one who brings salvation to the lost. Are we prayerful people?

The third way that I think helps us to understand what it means to put the gospel to work, is by thinking about how we live out the gospel in our lives. As our brother Ben Carpentier so eloquently writes, Putting the gospel to work also means understanding God's love better ourselves, and letting that love transform our own lives so that it shines through us. That means not just reading the Bible, or listening to sermons, or joining a Bible study, but actually letting what you learn from doing those things impact and change how you live the rest of your life. In the way that we live, do we practically show love to those around us.

After spending time in the book of James we were reminded of the importance of this practical love weren't we? We are called to show God's love practically in the way that we live. Do we love the way that God loves. For example, When a new person enters our church - how do we 'see' that person. Do we see them as a stranger? Or do we see them as a long lost brother or sister, do we seek to help them meet Jesus. How do we treat them, how we practically love them can make a

difference as to whether they are willing to listen to the message of God's love for them.

This lady is known as the Hurricane, her real name is Julia Hawkins, at the age of 101, she made a world record of running the 100m in about 40 seconds. An amazing lady, at 101 years to be a) running, but b) run 100m in 40 seconds. That's amazing stamina and perseverance. I think that this is what we should be striving to do as much as what our body and health can allow us too. You see, Does the King say to us..

Put to work this money until you've done your 15 years of Sunday school teaching, or Put to work this money until you've reached 65 years, NO, the king says to us Put to work this money until I return. We are to continue to invest in the gospel, to see it grow, until Jesus returns. That's hard work isn't it. Our job is to continue to seek and save the lost until Jesus returns.

I've heard too many times these lines used to finish serving in a ministry, I've done my duty, I've put in the years so I'm no longer serving, now don't hear me saying that you're never allowed to stop doing a ministry and have a break, we have to be wise in how we do use our time and to be understanding of what's going on for you in your season of life and health. But being a servant of the King is a life long thing, we do God's

work until he comes, or until we go to him. But I think sometimes we perhaps allow ourselves to think that we've done our job and we slow down in thinking about how can we put to work the gospel. It can be too easy for us to say let the younger ones do the work.

One example is with Junior Jivers, we had a mum from church who had been coming to Junior Jivers with their child and she had been helping me run it, but when her child begins Kindergarten the assumption and the norm is that she'll no longer help with Junior Jivers, because I guess the reasoning is 'why go to a ministry that isn't going to benefit her in anyway, because her child is at school now. Well, a week or two into the new year, and I asked this mum if she had the time on Tuesdays to come and help me with Junior Jivers, and at the time she didn't have anything else on, so she committed to come and help me for the whole year. And it was excellent. Not only was she able to help me, but she was able to have conversations with the mums in the group, she invited people to the group that she met in the playground, and through our working together we had the momentum to begin a bible study, in which we had four mums through Junior Jivers who joined us. We were able to do Christianity explored, and through that group some of the women met Jesus and trusted in Jesus, and are now growing to be more like him.

Because my friend didn't have a child in Junior Jivers, it gave her more opportunities to be able to have conversations with the mums, to show love to their kids, which made them more willing to join us for bible study. This wouldn't have happened if her attitude was 'it's no longer my job'. Why would my friend be part of a ministry that doesn't benefit her or her family? Because she wants to seek and save the lost..

Why would you spend your holidays at HAWK working hard, teaching kids about Jesus, organising craft, being tired at the end of the work instead of relaxing at a resort? WHY, because you want to put to work the gospel that you've received from Jesus.

Why do you change the way your service runs? Because you want people in your community to meet Jesus, to trust in Jesus and to grow more like him.

Why do Matt and Leonie work hard at College, why do they put so much energy into youth work, especially when at times you don't have much encouragement?? It's because they want the youth to meet Jesus, to trust Jesus and to grow more like him.

Jesus' task, that he gives to all Christians, I think helps us to keep on serving. I want to be running in my spiritual life just like Julia Hawkins is running in her real life.

Subjects

How do the subjects live life when the King is absent? Well, briefly put, they hate the king, and are seeking to reject to have the King in their lives. We see this in all those who aren't Christians.

Well, what happens next in the parable is that the KING returns, and he calls his servants and says.. SHOW ME THE MONEY.. Show me what you've done with what I gave you, how much work did you do. And everyone is going to stand before the KING, no one is going to escape standing before him. We are going to be called to account. What will your answer be? There are three options in which anyone could be in..

The Return of the King

Servants

In our parable we only get told about the consequences of three servants.

The first two servants are praised by the King for being faithful, productive, and they've grown their one mina for their King. The King

is pleased with them. Did you notice that their reward is not rest, no their reward is that they were given more responsibility. And depending on the productivity of the two servants they were given different levels of responsibility. Here's what we learn - what we do with our lives, what we do with what we're given, what we do with the knowledge we have of the gospel can have impact on our eternal future. It won't affect your salvation, but what matters is have you been faithful, have you been productive, what matters is how important was growing God's gospel of love in your life?

What about the third servant?

Third servant was not faithful or productive, wasn't even willing to do the bare minimum like put the minas on deposit so it would collect interest. The third servant did nothing. His excuse was due to a distorted view of who the King was. His excuse was I didn't do anything because you're a King that takes what's not yours, you're a king who doesn't do any work, and reaps the benefits of others. But he's got a distorted view of the KING.

Because the truth is that the KING is amazingly generous to his servants. He gives us all that we need. He's given us his LIFE so that we can have eternal LIFE with him. God's love that he gives to us is immeasurable, and he asks us to share this love with the people around us.

I pray that we will be more like the first two servants, than the third one.

What happens to the Subjects when the king returns? - Well the people that hated the King, well, their fate was a horrible one. They were summoned in front of the King, and they were killed.

Jesus will return, and he will ask each one of us, What did you do with all that time I gave you? What did you do with all that truth you knew about me, what did you do with all those opportunities to serve me through other people? How did you invest the money that you had for eternity in a way that made a difference. What did you do with all the money you had? How are we going to answer?

Let us pray that we will be faithful to our King, have loving hearts, generous hearts, servant hearts, make us spiritual entrepreneurs. Help us to proclaim, pray and practice God's love so that people from all ages and cultures will meet Jesus, trust in Jesus and to grow more like Him.

A bible passage if asked about the third servant. 1

Corinthians 3:10-15 NIV

[10] By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, [13] their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. [14] If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. [15] If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved---even though only as one escaping through the flames.