

WHAT'S IN YOUR HANDKERCHIEF?

I. Luke 19:11-27

A. We're going to take a brief look at Jesus' *Parable of the Minas*. When Jesus spoke in parables it did one of two things: It clarified the truth for some and concealed the truth for others. Religious leaders walked away scratching their heads while His true followers sought the deeper meaning...

B. Matthew 13:10-17 is Jesus' *Parable of the Talents*. This ain't that. The parable of the minas was told on the road to Jerusalem with an entourage; the parable of the talents was told on the Mount of Olives with only His disciples. The parable of the minas is about ten servants given one mina each; the parable of the talents has three servants given differing amounts. Minas, were of much less value than talents (1 talent = 60 minas). I commend both parables to you for further study...

C. And finally, before we dive in, while this parable is about money entrusted to servants, it's really about far more. It's about all that God has entrusted to us with respect to our calling to revere and advance His Kingdom in the earth.

D. Luke 19:11-27 (ESV) The Parable of the Minas...

1) **V11-13: 11** *As they heard these things, He proceeded to tell a parable, because He was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. 12 He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. 13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business (with my minas) until I come.'* **(Greek for this phrase is: *Pragmateuomai*, pronounced: *prag-mat-yoo-om-ahee*; KJV "Occupy until I come." i.e. *Be about my business 'til I come back! What word best describes our eschatology? Pragmateuomai!*)**

2) **V14: 14** *But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'* **(This is how the Jewish leaders felt about Jesus! Our culture increasingly shares their sentiment.)**

3) **V15-22: 15** *When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. 16 The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' 17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' 18 And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' 19 And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' 20 Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' 22 He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! **(Deemed wicked because he did nothing with what was entrusted!)** You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? **(Actually he didn't know his master very well!)***

4) **V23-27: 23** *Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' 24 And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina*

from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' **25** And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' **26** 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **27** But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

E. So let's get down to the business of our Lord's business. Jesus has certainly entrusted much to us in terms of talents, gifts, & graces, time & opportunities. But those are just tools to advance His Kingdom. What's the bigger picture? He's given us a Great Commandment and a Great Commission, what to be and what to do. When God's will and word and ways are lovingly and joyfully obeyed, they will indeed advance our Lord's Kingdom on the earth.

F. The outpost, the vehicle, the corporate mechanism, God uses to advance His Kingdom on earth is His Church, His Royal Family. The Church Global comprised of the Churches Local. The Church isn't a manmade creation. God established the institutions of Government and Family and likewise the institution of the Church. It's His brainchild. It belongs to Him. It's His property. And it's for His purposes.

G. We don't commit ourselves to the Church or a Church for our purposes, but for His. Should we get spiritually fed there? Sure! Cared for there? Yes! But even our nourishment and care are to strengthen us to engage in His purposes. Just like an individual kid dare not think his family exists solely to take care of his every need, an individual Christian dare not think his Church exists just for his or her's own purpose. Better said, the Church is there so we can discover how best we can serve God's purpose, achieve His agenda, even at the expense of our own.

H. Here's some things to ponder: Lexington Covenant Church ordained me as your pastor. It was once 500+ in number. I used to help set up 600 chairs and we filled them. LCC no longer exists. Paul wrote an awesome letter to the church in Ephesus. Later John dictated Jesus' letter to them. Revelation 2:1-5 (NLT) reads: **1 Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven gold lampstands: **2** I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. **3** You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. **4** But I have this complaint against you. You don't love Me or each other as you did at first! **5** Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to Me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. **(Guess what? The Church in Ephesus no longer exists. I'd like for us to keep our lampstand and keep it lit!)****

I. If all we do someday is unwrap our little hanky and hand back to God the one little mina He gave us to do something with, it'll be a sad day. I long for us something better! How about you? Come July, we'll have been together for 35 years. In some ways we've only just begun. We've got a long way to go. The day inches closer when mantles will need to be passed. But in the meantime we must press on, i.e. keep on keepin' on! Let's be thankful for what's been and also for what's to come! And let's be faithful to wisely employ all He's entrusted to us. Let's find our place, allow God to put our hands on the plow, and not look back.

*** Close with Prayer...**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 19:11-27 (ESV)

11 As they heard these things, He proceeded to tell a parable, because He was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. **12** He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. **13** Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' **14** But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' **15** When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. **16** The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' **17** And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' **18** And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' **19** And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' **20** Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; **21** for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' **22** He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? **23** Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' **24** And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' **25** And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' **26** 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **27** But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

Revelation 2:1-5 (NLT)

1 Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven gold lampstands: **2** "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. **3** You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. **4** But I have this complaint against you. You don't love Me or each other as you did at first! **5** Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to Me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

Bonus Goodies

Belong To A Church - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8EIN2syoTs>

Is it Important to Become a Local Church Member? - Q & A with John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdpL42LmDVA>

Is Church Membership Really Necessary? - Trip Lee (The Gospel Coalition)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4tvDHI6u1E>

Why Should I Become a Formal Church Member? - Sinclair Ferguson (Ask Ligonier)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1Rq2Knrl80>

Why Every Christian Should Belong to a Local Church - Matt Chandler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-KxHuMXoJE>

Me Church ;-)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGEmlPjgjVI>

Ronnie ;-)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t20GJ8T_9o8

The Church--A Cruise Ship or A Battleship?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWKE-Kw30fE>

The March of the Unqualified - Igniter Media

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnoPluENS-I>

"How Firm A Foundation" - Chelsea Moon with the Franz Brother

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8O5RyGRmx8>

[Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Matthew 13:10-17 \(ESV\)](#)

10 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

11 And He answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. **12** For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **13** This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14** Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'" **15** For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' **16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. **17** For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

[Acts 2:42-47 \(ESV\)](#)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in

common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NLT)

16 Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? **17** God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief Cornerstone. **21** In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Jude 1:20-21 (NLT)

20 But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, **21** and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (AMPC)

"And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching."

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NASB)

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, **23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **24** and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

The Reformation Study Bible on the Parable of the Minas

"The parable teaches that everyone has one basic task--to serve God faithfully."

- Reformation Study Bible, R .C. Sproul General Editor Comments on Luke 19:12, p.1492.

Clarke's Commentary on the Bible - Luke 19:13

"By the ten minas given to each, we may understand the Gospel of the kingdom given to every person who professes to believe in Christ, and which he is to improve to the salvation of his soul. The same word is given to all, that all may believe and be saved."

Quote from Kent Crockett

The parable of the minas focuses on the servants' faithfulness whereas the parable of the talents accentuates the servants' abilities.

Quote by David Livingstone

"I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity."

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"It is always so, the gracious and faithful man obtains more grace and more means of usefulness, while the unfaithful man sinks lower and lower and grows worse and worse. We must either make progress or lose what we have attained. There is no such thing as standing still in religion."

The Widow's Mite With Interest

Author Unknown

It is estimated that if the widow's mite had been deposited at the "First National Bank, Jerusalem" to draw four percent interest semi-annually, the fund today would total \$4,800,000,000,000,000,000,000. If a bank on earth could multiply the widow's mite to such an astronomical figure, think what treasures this dedicated woman will have in heaven where "moth and rust doth not corrupt."

Quote by A.W. Tozer

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

Quote by Samuel Chadwick

"The Church is the Body of Christ, and the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. He fills the Body, directs its movements, controls its members, inspires its wisdom, supplies it's strength. He guides into truth, sanctifies its agents, and empowers for witnessing. The Spirit has never abdicated His authority nor relegated His power."

Quote by Harold Senkbeil

"Ultimately, churches grow and flourish not by sales or business tactics, but by the power of God's Spirit working through His Word."

Quote from C.S. Lewis

"Enemy-occupied territory - that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening-in

to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going."

Quote by Kevin DeYoung

"The Church acts as a sort of embassy for the government of the King. It is an outpost of the Kingdom of God surrounded by the kingdom of darkness. Just as an embassy is meant to showcase the life of a nation to the surrounding people, so the Church is meant to manifest the life of the Kingdom of God to the people around it."

Quote by John Piper

"The body of Christ, universally, is expressed in the bodies of Christ locally. To belong to THE body of Christ means in the New Testament to belong to A body of Christ. Let me say that again because that's very very threatening for many Lone Ranger Christians. To belong to THE body of Christ in the New Testament meant to belong to A body of Christ. They weren't separate. They weren't like, 'Oh I'm a part of the universal church and I just cruise. I just go from church to church and small group to small group and to parachurch ministry to parachurch ministry and I have no roots like this anywhere.' That's not Biblical!"

Quote by Jonathan Leeman

"The local church should be the antidote to both individualism and tribalism, a place where each person stands individually before God and as a member of a new people and family"

Quote by Collin Hansen & Jonathan Leeman

"God...invites us into a spiritual family of misfits and outcasts. He welcomes us into a home that's rarely what we want yet just what we need."

Quote by Mrs. William P. Janzen

"Can I be a Christian without joining other Christians in the church? Yes, it is something like: being a soldier without an army, a seaman without a ship, a businessman without a business, a tuba player without an orchestra, a football player without a team, or a bee without a hive."

Quote by Jen Pollock Michel

"A solitary Christian who thinks he can live independently of the church functions about as well as a thumb severed from its hand."

Quote by John Calvin

"So highly does the Lord esteem the communion of His church, that He considers everyone a traitor and apostate from religion who perversely withdraws himself from any Christian society which preserves the true ministry of the word and sacraments."

Quote by Martin Luther

"Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in Him unless he knew where His believers are?"

Quote by Martin Luther

"To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"It is both foolish and wicked to suppose that we will make much progress in sanctification if we isolate ourselves from the visible church."

Quote by Sinclair Ferguson

"The decay of the church is never the fault of the world. Inward spiritual decline always precedes outward collapse."

Quote by Oswald Chambers

"All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them."

Quote by Pastor Tony, Waynesville, NC

"The church gains its significance because it is the institution Jesus Christ left on earth to represent Him to the world. It like nothing else in the Bible, other than Jesus Himself, has the stamp of God's divine approval on it. It is to the church that Jesus committed the work of extending the kingdom of God."

Quote by James H. Aughey

"Jesus organized the church, which is His vineyard. He commands all to go into the vineyard and work. All who are united to Christ by faith, and are thus members of His mystical body, should be members of His visible church."

Quote by Charles Swindoll

"A contagious church comprises a body of caring women and men who see value in others and take the time to cultivate those lives. That must become a goal in our churches. Otherwise the church becomes a dusty old museum full of stuffed Christians, straight from the taxidermist. When the church fails to produce... it dies."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"Small numbers make no difference to God. There is nothing small if God is in it."

Excerpt from *God Is No Fool* by Lois Chaney

Once, a man said, *"If I had some extra money, I'd give it to God, but I have just enough to support myself and my family."* And the same man said, *"If I had some extra time, I'd give it to God, but every minute is taken up with my job, my family, my clubs, and what have you--every single minute."* And the same man said, *"If I had a talent I'd give it to God, but I have no lovely voice; I have no special skill; I've never been able to lead a group; I can't think cleverly or quickly, the way I would like to."*

And God was touched, and although it was unlike him, God gave that man money, time, and a glorious talent. And then He waited, and waited, and waited... And then after a while, He shrugged His shoulders, and He took all those things right back from the man, the money, the time and the glorious talent. After a while, the man sighed and said, *"If I only had some of that money back, I'd give it to God. If I only had some of that time, I'd give it to God. If I could only rediscover that glorious talent, I'd give it to God."*

And God said, *"Oh, shut up."*

And the man told some of his friends, *"You know, I'm not so sure that I believe in God anymore."*

- Lois A. Chaney, *God is No Fool: Who Do You Think You're Kidding*, 1969, Abindgon Press.

What is the Meaning of the Parable of the Minas?

S. Michael Houdmann

<http://www.gotquestions.org/parable-ten-minas.html>

Question: *"What is the meaning of the Parable of the Ten Minas?"*

Answer: Christ uses the Parable of the Ten Minas in [Luke 19:11–27](#) to teach about the coming kingdom of God on earth. The occasion of the [parable](#) is Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem. Many people in the crowd along the road believed that He was going to Jerusalem in order to establish His earthly kingdom immediately. (Of course, He was going to Jerusalem in order to die, as He had stated in [Luke 18:33](#).) Jesus used this parable to dispel any hopeful rumors that the time of the kingdom had arrived.

In the parable, a nobleman leaves for a foreign country in order to be made king. Before he left, he gave ten minas to ten of his servants ([Luke 19:12–13](#)). A mina was a good sum of money (about three months' wages), and the future king said, "Put this money to work . . . until I come back" (verse 13).

However, the man's subjects "hated him" and sent word to him that they refused to acknowledge his kingship ([Luke 19:14](#)). When the man was crowned king, he returned to his homeland and began to set things right. First, he called the ten servants to whom he had loaned the minas. They each gave an account for how they had used the money. The first servant showed that his mina had earned ten more. The king was pleased, saying, "Well done, my good servant! . . . Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities" (verse 17). The next servant's investment had yielded five additional minas, and that servant was rewarded with charge of five cities (verses 18–19).

Then came a servant who reported that he had done nothing with his mina except hide it in a cloth ([Luke 19:20](#)). His reason: "I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow" (verse 21). The king responded to the servant's description of him as "hard" by showing hardness,

calling him a “wicked servant” and commanding for his mina to be given to the one who had earned ten (verses 22 and 24). Some bystanders said, “Sir . . . he already has ten!” and the king replied, “I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away’ (verses 25–26).

Finally, the king commanded that his enemies—those who had rebelled against his authority—be brought before him. Right there in the king’s presence, they were executed ([Luke 19:27](#)).

In this parable, Jesus teaches several things about the Millennial Kingdom and the time leading up to it. As [Luke 19:11](#) indicates, Jesus’ most basic point is that the kingdom was not going to appear immediately. There would be a period of time, during which the king would be absent, before the kingdom would be set up.

The nobleman in the parable is Jesus, who left this world but who will return as King some day. The servants the king charges with a task represent followers of Jesus. The Lord has given us a valuable commission, and we must be faithful to serve Him until He returns. Upon His return, Jesus will ascertain the faithfulness of His own people (see [Romans 14:10–12](#)). There is work to be done ([John 9:4](#)), and we must use what God has given us for His glory. There are promised rewards for those who are faithful in their charge.

The enemies who rejected the king in the parable are representative of the Jewish nation that rejected Christ while He walked on earth—and everyone who still denies Him today. When Jesus returns to establish His kingdom, one of the first things He will do is utterly defeat His enemies ([Revelation 19:11–15](#)). It does not pay to fight against the King of kings.

The Parable of the Ten Minas is similar to the [Parable of the Talents](#) in [Matthew 25:14–30](#). Some people assume that they are the same parable, but there are enough differences to warrant a distinction: the parable of the minas was told on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem; the parable of the talents was told later on the Mount of Olives. The audience for the parable of the minas was a large crowd; the audience for the parable of the talents was the disciples by themselves. The parable of the minas deals with two classes of people: servants and enemies; the parable of the talents deals only with professed servants. In the parable of the minas, each servant receives the same amount; in the parable of the talents, each servant receives a different amount (and talents are worth far more than minas). Also, the return is different: in the parable of the minas, the servants report ten-fold and five-fold earnings; in the parable of the talents, all the good servants double their investment. In the former, the servants received identical gifts; in the latter, the good servants showed identical faithfulness.

- While he is not the author of every article on GotQuestions.org, for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.