

## THE PARABLE OF THE TEN MINAS // Luke 19:11-27

*Message from the series, The Gospel of Luke*

**Main Idea: Christians are called to faithfully work for the King while they wait for his Kingdom to come.**

There is an expectation that those who follow Jesus will have done something with what he has given them—the gospel. We are to be about our Father’s business in the service of the gospel. That is, we are saved to serve, work while we wait and always be about our Father’s business. Gospel stewardship means we ask, what have we done with the gospel? What have we done with our mina?

**1. The significance: Our life and our leverage (v. 11)** The first verse of this passage connects to the previous ones—the “these things” referring to the healing of the blind man and the encounter with Zacchaeus. Jesus is going to use a parable (an earthly story with a heavenly meaning) to make a point about his kingdom and authority. The main idea points to the significance of the advancement of the gospel. What am I doing with my life? We find ourselves in the time in between Jesus’ first and second coming. We are to be about working while we are waiting.

**2. The setting: the king and his kingdom (v. 12-15)** The main character in this parable is a “nobleman,” a title that carries the idea of “good birth.” Do Jesus’ listeners understand the parallel to himself, a king who went to a far country to claim a kingdom, though opposed by his enemies? Or would they understand that the minas in the story represented not money (and also not the various talents or gifts as in the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-30); rather they represent the gospel? Everyone is given the same good news; what will we do with it? We all have been given a commodity in the gospel. Are you leveraging your life and stewarding what God has given?

**3. The servants: their minas and their ministry (v. 16-26)** The first servant has an attitude of humility. He calls his master “Lord” and refers to the mina as “your mina”—he does not claim it as his own, but acknowledges the source. Likewise, the gospel belongs to God, and he has entrusted us with it. We ask: Have we been learning; obeying; sharing; teaching; serving the gospel? The product of faithfulness, success in gospel ministry leads to more responsibility, not to bragging rights. The second servant demonstrates that one man’s ministry is not another. Let God produce what he wants to produce in you. The third servant fails because he keeps his mina safely hidden away. The goal is not to keep the gospel clean and shiny—but to use it. This last servant makes lazy excuses, calling the nobleman a “severe man,” an inappropriate description for a parallel of Jesus, who calls himself “gentle and lowly” (Matthew 11:29). The absence of gospel stewardship indicates that true conversion and transformation may not have taken place.

**4. The slaughter: their enemies and their execution (v. 27)** The final verse is chilling, referencing the enemies who did not want the king to reign over them. Likewise, Jesus’ enemies did not want him to reign over them, but there is no chance for resistance. Whether you love Jesus or not he has authority over you. He has authority over all as creator; he also has authority by salvation, and those who have been saved are now children of God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the parallels between the nobleman of the parable and Jesus? How does this story help us to understand who Jesus is?
2. What is our reaction when we are asked, “What are you doing with your life?” How does understanding the idea of “gospel stewardship” impact how we see the goal of our life?
3. What does it look like to leverage your life for the gospel? What does it look like to keep the gospel in a handkerchief in your pocket?