

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Lord Rewards the Faithful” Luke 19

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 19: 11-27

1. *The parable of ten pounds*

- A. This parable is similar to the parable of the talents [Matt 25: 14-30], where three servants of the noble man received five, two and one talents of gold according to their abilities. In this parable of the pounds, however, each of the ten servants received one pound (of gold) for a total of ten pounds for trading.
- B. The elements of this parable are the noble man, the servants, the pounds, the profits, the kingdom, and its citizens:
 - a. The noble man—obviously refers to Lord Jesus Himself, who would leave this world and come back with the kingship of the kingdom of God here on the earth [v. 12].
 - b. The ten servants are chosen servants of Lord Jesus who are entrusted with the revelation and the calling to take good care of the treasures of the kingdom until the king returns [v. 13].
 - c. The pounds are the revelation of the truth of God shared to the chosen servants of the Lord. The pound here is compared to a monetary value, which grows over time when invested wisely. Likewise, the assets of God’s kingdom here on the earth are expected to grow and expand over time through wise programs and efforts of investment in peoples, societies and nations.
 - d. The profits expected by the Lord when He returns are in terms of believing people, faithful churches, societies and nations wholly devoted to God’s cause here on the earth.
 - e. The kingdom of God was yet to come to the disciples and the people of Israel in the first century. Yet, the seeds were sown by Lord Jesus and His disciples so that this kingdom would grow and mature until He returns with His rightful crown of glory to rule the kingdom of God established here on the earth to rule over all nations and peoples.
 - f. The citizens of the kingdom were the people of Israel during Lord Jesus’ ministry. However, the citizens of all nations of this world will be judged together with the people of Israel when the Lord returns as the King of kings.

2. *Three types of response*

- A. Faithful servants
 - a. The first servant would come forward to the Lord and show that he has traded with the one pound and earned ten pounds, thus achieving 1,000% from his investment. He would be given the right to govern ten cities [v. 16-17].
 - b. The second servant likewise has traded and earned five pounds, achieving 5,00% from his investment. He would be given the right to govern five cities in the Lord’s kingdom [v. 18-19].
 - c. Note how cheerfully they would come forth to show their achievements to the king. The noble man Lord they knew came back as the King of kings with mighty power over all nations. How proud they would feel and joyfully they would confess to the King that they were faithful in performing the commission they had received from their Lord, who is now the King.
- B. Unfaithful servants
 - a. One servant would come forward with the pound wrapped in a napkin, showing that he has not gained any profit over the asset received. In fact, he did not make any effort of investing the asset entrusted by his Lord.
 - b. His attitude is, “I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow [v. 21].” This man misunderstood his Lord’s character entirely. His fear of the Lord kept him away from loving Him and from obeying the precious commission received from the Lord. Yes, God is seemingly able to reap harvests without doing farming or mining. Yet, God has entrusted the humanity the great commission to bring about increases not only in the spiritual realm but also in the

natural realm. This man must have spent all his time for his own projects while neglecting the Lord's endeavors. His assets will be taken away from him and given to the one with ten pounds.

- c. Whatever happened to the other seven servants who also received a pound each? This story shows the scarcity of faithful servants the Lord would find here on the earth when He returns. Does it indicate that some 80% of those in the Lord's ministry would be found as unfaithful when He returns? A serious thought to ponder and to reflect on.

C. The rebellious crowd

- a. The citizens of the kingdom did not want the noble man to reign over them even before His departure [v. 14]. In fact, they hated Him. When the Lord returns, He will again find many who did not want His sovereign rule over them. *"But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me [v. 27]."*
- b. God is love to those who love Him. However, God is a mighty avenger to those who hate Him or do not want His sovereign rule over them. They will be regarded as God's 'enemies.' Where shall we be found, as God's beloved faithful or as His enemies when He returns?
- c. There will be a great slaughter of the Lord's enemies when the Lord returns [Revelation 19]. The One whom they crucified and rejected will tread the great winepress of God's wrath on the fateful day of vengeance.

Discussion topics:

1. *What have we received from the Lord and what are we doing to bring about increases?*
2. *Let's discuss the wrong concepts that people have about God and His nature.*