

## Reflection Questions: Luke 19:11-28

For the message, "Don't Waste Your Life" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 1, 2022

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 19:11-28

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.'"

28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

### **Key Points:**

- Jesus tells this parable to correct their misunderstanding and expectations about his kingship and his kingdom.
- Key to interpreting the parable: The nobleman is Jesus who goes to a far country (heaven) to receive the crown rights to the kingdom of this world. His servants are his disciples who have

been entrusted as stewards to about his business. The enemies in this story are those who don't want Jesus to rule over him.

- Jesus wants to be able to say to us, "Well done, good servant!" And the overwhelming, disproportionate nature of his reward is meant to tell us something about his great big, generous heart.
- Key principle: Faithfulness is rewarded with greater opportunities and greater responsibilities.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Followers of Jesus are meant to see themselves in this parable as the servants who have been entrusted with a stewardship (the mina is the gospel business we are supposed to be engaged in) and are making the most of it. How does this bring clarity to what Jesus expects of us?
2. What does this text teach us about the desire of Jesus to partner with us and reward us extravagantly?
3. Many folks reading these words of Jesus are shocked by what he says in verse 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."
  - Honestly, how do these words strike you? How do you process this in light of the fact that Jesus said we are to love our enemies (Luke 6:27ff)? What thoughts or questions come to your mind?
  - Luke goes on to portray Jesus next as riding into Jerusalem not on a war horse with swords in his hands, but on a colt of a donkey. Later in the week, he is slaughtered by his enemies (23:26ff), and at the end of the gospel Luke tells us that Jesus told his disciples to go offer remission of sins to people (24:46-47), beginning in Jerusalem to the very people who slaughtered him. What thoughts come to your mind as you process the fact that Jesus did not slaughter his enemies, but wanted the offer of full and free forgiveness to be made to them?
  - No doubt there is more that could be said, and the Apostle John portrays Jesus coming at the end of time on a war horse with his garments already covered in his own blood to put away evil once and for all (Revelation 19:11-16) but for the moment, what do you think Luke is trying to get us to see about Jesus and the way he treats his enemies who slaughtered him?
4. Let's not lose sight on the main point Jesus is communicating: that the kingdom is not going to appear suddenly (as His contemporaries thought as He approached Jerusalem), but that He was going away to receive his crown rights to rule the kingdom of God, and in the meantime he entrusts his business (the good news / gospel) to his servants, and wants them to be faithful.
  - Reflect on this quote from Hudson Taylor: "A little thing is just a little thing, but faithfulness in a little thing is a big thing." Considering how Jesus saw faithfulness in a little thing as a big thing, how does that encourage you to greater faithfulness as a follower of Christ?
  - What are some ways you can be more involved in promoting the Gospel of Jesus?