

Daily Devotionals: With Jesus and His Wisdom | February 13, 2022

Day 1 – Devotional

It seems odd, doesn't it? Jesus' words in **Luke 19** come as quite a shock.

“To everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

Jesus said that? That feels...*unusual*. It seems like Jesus would be the one to say something more akin to this:

“To everyone who has, you should share. To everyone who has not, do not fear, more will be given.”

But he doesn't. He says,

“To everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

What are we to make of this?

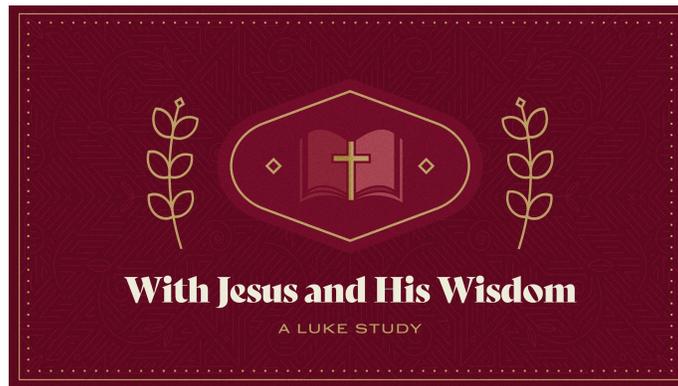
Read Luke 19:11-27.

As we enter the classroom with Jesus, we learn a vital lesson from Jesus about some of the rationale for why we steward our resources well (and we learn the reason as to why Jesus spoke the words he did above).

Looking at this parable through the lens of stewardship, we learn that we ought to steward our money, time, energies, and resources for the sake of Jesus' kingdom for two main reasons:

1. Jesus's grace.

In the parable, it's not that the servants *earned* the talents or minas themselves. Rather, it's that the nobleman who was to inherit his kingdom, *gave* his servants what they had so that they could expand the nobleman's kingdom and treasury from what it was to what it could be! The minas and talents they were given was a *grace* – a gift!



How true is this for us to ponder! How much of our lives is a grace? We can so often tempt ourselves into thinking that we have earned our money, our house, and our lot in life. We forget, however, that it was God who graced us with our intellect, it was God who placed us at this time in history, it was God who gave us our personalities. So much of what we have was given. It's a kingdom of grace.

2. Jesus' judgment.

Implicit in this parable from Jesus is the reality of judgment. The nobleman goes away and entrusts his servants to be obedient and *do something* with the grace that they've been given. Of course, we know that some do and some do not. Those who invest their master's money are given more. Those who do not invest their master's money are destroyed.

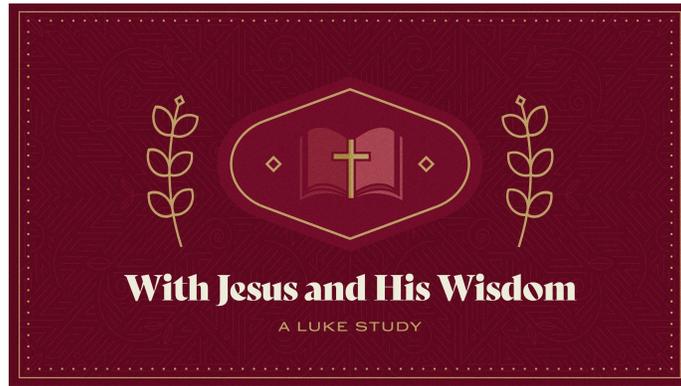
Jesus will come again one day to see if we have *done something* with all that he has given us. Of course, this feels a bit uncalled for, perhaps. We think, "Why should we be harshly judged for something like not budgeting very well?" But perhaps that betrays our mentality on life – we think that what we have belongs to us, not that God has entrusted us with money and resources and talents for a *reason*.

Our "reason" as Christians is what we express in our priority of "Kingdom" here at The Creek. We seek to be a people who are bringing the kingdom of God to Indianapolis as it is in Heaven. Everything we do, we want to center it on helping to bring God's justice, God's peace, and God's righteousness to bear in our city! And Jesus will return one day to see if we've done just that.

This is why Jesus ends his parable like he does:

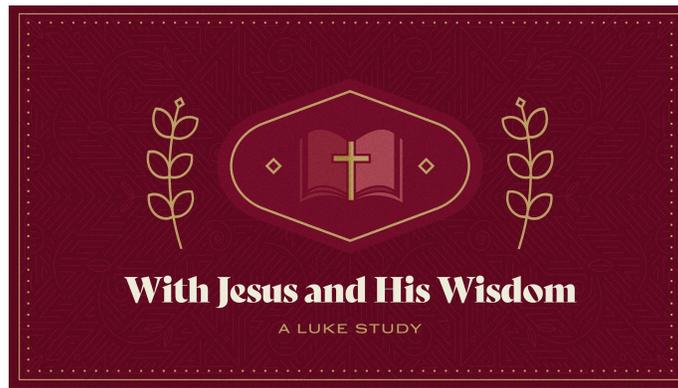
"To everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

Why should someone be given more of something if they'll just squander it? No, Jesus will reward those who steward well what they've been given by giving them more – not so they can pad their own pockets or egos, but so that they can press on towards the goal of seeing God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.



Questions for reflection:

1. How do you think viewing all that you have as a gift from God would affect how you view your possessions?
2. How does knowing that we will be judged based on our stewardship of what God has given us affect how you think about what you'll do with your money, talents, and resources?
3. What specific invitations do you feel God is giving you as a result of your reading from **Luke 19** today?



Day 2 – Bible Study Breakdown

Today, as we continue learning from Jesus, we want to do a bible study breakdown on Jesus' parable in **Luke 19:11-28**. We'll do that by looking at context, key words, and key phrases. Hopefully, by doing so, we'll gain a little more insight into this passage and some of its implications for our lives.

Here are three portions of this text to help us gain a little more insight...

“He was near Jerusalem”

In **Luke 11:19**, we read that Jesus tells this parable to those around him because “he was near Jerusalem.” That’s an important aspect of this passage that is often overlooked. Jesus is nearing the end. Earlier in Luke, Jesus made a pivotal move to head toward Jerusalem. In fact, Luke tells us that Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (**Luke 9:51**).

Of importance here is what Jerusalem entails. It’s the ancient city where Israel’s kings ruled. It’s no wonder then that as he nears this kingly city that Jesus tells a parable of a nobleman who is about to receive his kingdom.

In fact, the very next scene in Luke’s gospel depicts the Jesus’ triumphal entry *into* Jerusalem – the time where Jesus rides into the city on a colt like a king.

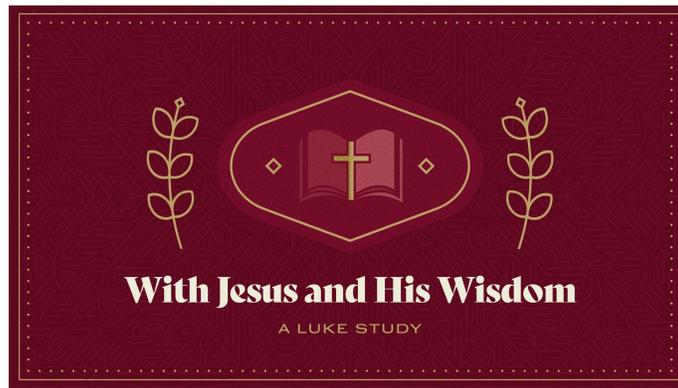
This parable being situated where it is in Luke’s gospel is no mere coincidence. It’s where it is for a reason. It’s there to make us think about what Jesus’ rule means for our lives, and specifically for how we steward what he has given us.

“Mina”

A “mina” was a unit of measurement for money. It was roughly equivalent to three months of wages for the average first-century worker. In this parable, Jesus showcases a nobleman who gives his servants ten minas or thirty months wages for them to then invest and “engage in business with” – certainly a hearty amount!

“But his citizens hated him...”

In **verse 14** of **Luke 19**, we read that Jesus depicts the nobleman as one who was hated by his newfound citizenry. Here, many scholars believe Jesus is echoing some of what people thought



of Herod Archelaus who was told by his own citizenry that they did not want him reigning over them!

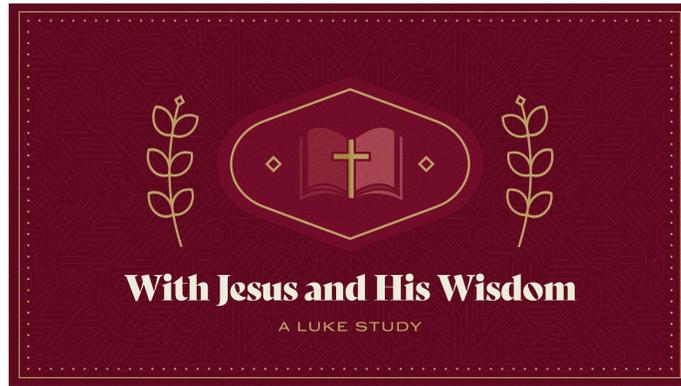
Jesus is obviously no Herod, but perhaps he's making the parallels here to emphasize his kingly nature and to point out his rejection by the people who should be revering him! The point that needs made here is simply this: Citizens are very unlikely to follow the rules and commands of their king if they do not delight in his lordship. Just as Herod Archelaus had issues ruling over the provinces because his people did not want him as their ruler, so too, is Jesus confronted with the issue of people who do not want him to be crowned King.

And Jesus doesn't hold back. Later, in **Luke 19:27**, he refers to these people as his "enemies," people who did not "want me to reign over them," and who he will "slaughter."

Harsh words, no? But Jesus' point here is that those who do not delight in him, who do not obey him have made themselves, not just bystanders, but *enemies*. And there will come a day when he won't put up with the sin, corruption, deceit, and injustice that comes inevitably with living antithetically to the way of Jesus – the way of peace, righteousness, justice, and goodness.

Questions for reflection:

1. How does the position of this parable (right before Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem) and the significance of the city of Jerusalem impact the meaning of this passage of Scripture?
2. In this parable, the nobleman entrusted his servants with a lot (ten minas!). What have you been entrusted with? Write out a brief list of the things that God has given you to steward. Are you using them well? Why or why not?
3. If there are any areas you are not stewarding what god has given you well, might it be because there is still a part of your heart that is at odds with King Jesus? Describe that area. What is putting you at odds with him? According to this parable, what are the consequences that come with being at odds with King Jesus?



Day 3 – Scripture Survey

For this day of devotionals, we are going to continue learning from Jesus about stewardship by going to different passages in Luke's gospel where he talks about our money, resources, and finances. We will see that he addresses it EVERYWHERE in this gospel account.

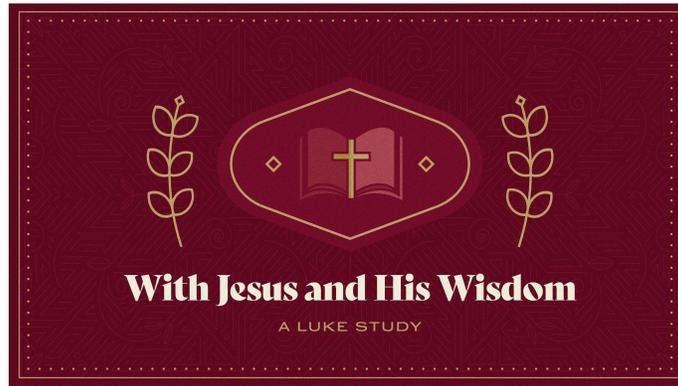
For today, read through the following passages taking note of what these verses have to say about our money and finances and how we should be stewarding our possessions. Once you have finished, prayerfully reflect on what God may be inviting/challenging you as a result of your reading today.

Luke 6:20-26

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12:32-34

Luke 18:18-30



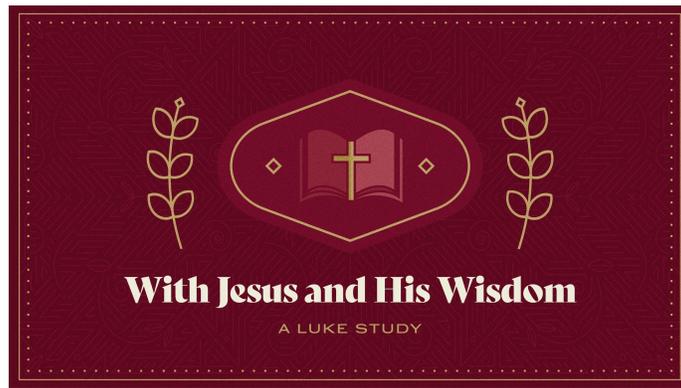
Day 4 – Story Work

In this series we are trying to be a people who are constantly learning from Jesus. Jesus' parable here in **Luke 19:11-27** is a masterclass on stewardship. Jesus' teaching here can be a paradigm shift for us when it comes to how we view what we have and how to utilize what it is we have!

As you begin this devotion today, spend some time yet again re-reading **Luke 19:11-27**.

When you have finished reading, spend a few minutes in prayer asking God what you might take from this parable afresh. Still your mind, preparing to think deeply and ask God to bring to mind what He wants you to discover. Then, ponder the following questions.

1. As you look back over your life, what was your family's disposition towards money? Were they free-spirited regarding the spending of money or were they very cautious and meticulous with their finances? How has this affected how you view and handle your money and resources?
2. What sorts of underlying desires, fears, or motivations might you have that affect how you steward all that God has given you (time, talents, money, resources)? Where do you think these desires, fears, or motivations come from?
3. When was a time you squandered and did not steward well what God has given you? What happened? What did that feel like?
4. When was a time in your life you felt like you used all that God has given you well for a significant Kingdom purpose? What did that feel like?
5. Is there anything God is inviting you to reconsider or reflect on as a result of your time today with these questions?



Day 5 – Application

This week, we have spent a lot of time one-on-one with Jesus and the parable of the ten minas. We considered the aspects of both grace and judgment and how those impact our view of what we possess, we considered other passages in Luke that deal with our money and possessions, and we've even stopped to consider how we've viewed stewardship in our own lives.

What we want to do now is ask this question: "How do we apply a passage like this?"

Here are a couple questions/actions steps to help you think about what God might be inviting you to DO as a result of your devotions this week:

1. On Day 2, you listed out a brief synopsis of the different things that God has given you. Is there anything you need to add to that list? If so, add it. Once you feel like you have a pretty comprehensive assessment of all that you've been entrusted with, spend some time thanking God for all that you have!
2. In **Luke 19:13**, the nobleman says to his servants, "Engage in business until I come." What would engaging in Jesus' business look like for you with where you're at in life right now?
3. Are there any areas of your life where you've had faulty attitudes about your possessions that you need to confess? What are they? Consider confessing those attitudes, fears, and desires to a trusted Christian brother or sister.
4. One of our priorities as a church and one of the rhythms we established in Rooted was generosity. How are you being challenged to grow in generosity as a result of this week's devotionals?

Perhaps the thing that is keeping you from stewarding all the God has given you well is a lack of a plan (aka a budget!). If you don't have a budget, consider making one. Set a time, place, and a date to create this. If you already have one, consider setting a time to go over your plan to make sure where that all that God has given you is being stewarded as well as it possibly could be! You might even do this (and share it) with another person in your life group for accountability!