

JESUS

OCCUPY

SAID

till I Come.

Luke 19: 11-27

Introduction

This is unique among the parables of Jesus, because it is the only one whose story is in part based on an actual historical event.

Anyone in Judaea, on hearing the parable, would immediately remember the historical circumstances on which it was based.

I. Purpose

The reason Jesus told this parable was to clear up some confusion about Himself.

*And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.—
Luke 19:11*

I. Purpose

This parable fulfills 3 important functions:

- 1) it clarifies the time of the appearance of the kingdom of God;**
- 2) it portrays the coming rejection and future return of the Lord;**
- 3) it delineates the role of a disciple in the time between the Lord's departure and his return.**

II. Return of Christ

The present position of our Lord Jesus Christ is compared to *"a man of noble birth" who "went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return"* (verse 12).

But, one day, the present state of affairs will be changed.

When Christ returns, the kingdoms of this world will become his kingdom.

III. Command to His Disciples

As this nobleman gets ready to depart for the far country, he calls his servants and delivers unto them pounds (one **mina** each).

The Lord then commands them to "***Occupy till I come (return)***" in verse 13.

The word ***occupy*** means **to invest with the intent of increase; do business; to use.**

III. Command to His Disciples

We are told only what three of the servants did with the given money.

Those servants who invested their **minas** were commended and given more opportunity.

But the servant who simply saved his original **mina** was rebuked severely and lost the pound and the reward.

Application

We are stewards of our lives and of all we have. Romans 12:6 teaches us that we as Christians have been entrusted with gifts to be used for the Lord.

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace given unto us."

We are to use our time, talents, treasures, and opportunities for the Lord so that God's work is advanced and can multiply.

Application

The words of an old hymn come to mind:

**“When Jesus comes to reward His servants;
Whether it be noon or night; Faithful to him will
He find us watching, With our lamps all
trimmed and bright? If at the dawn of the early
morning, He shall call us one by one; When to
the Lord we restore our talents, will He say to
thee, ‘Well done’?”**

IV. Reward for Faithfulness

The king reckoned first with his servants to whom he had invested the mina: *"Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it"* (v. 15b).

This represents **the Judgment Seat of Christ**, the judgment of believers.

IV. Reward for Faithfulness

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

There is a day coming when the Lord Jesus Christ will judge his people.

High and low, rich and poor—all will have to give account to God.

IV. Reward for Faithfulness

Those who have been faithful servants will receive honor and dignity.

Each will receive a reward in proportion to his diligence: One will be put in charge of “five cities,” another “ten cities” (verses 17, 19).

The great reward of God to the person who has satisfied the test is more trust.

IV. Reward for Faithfulness

We see, lastly, in this parable the certain exposure of all unfaithful Christians on the last day.

The parable concludes with one of the inexorable laws of life:

To those who have more will be given; from those who have not what they have will be taken away.

Takeaway

What is compelling about this story is this, you're in it ... every single one of you somewhere.

There it is in one story ... rewards for the **faithful**, rejection for the **false**, retribution for the **foes**.

Where are you? Which is your group?

Challenge

Our Lord saith, "*Occupy till I come!*"

Therefore, let us be constant and diligent in the work of the Lord.

Let us strive to fulfil our duty, that, at Christ's second coming to judge the world, he may say to every one of us, "*Well done, good and faithful servant! enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!*"

Are You Ready to Meet Your Lord?

Behold,
He Cometh!

