

3.Preparing ourselves for the Judgment Seat of Christ

www.victory.net.nz 25.07.2021

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Subtitle: The Parables of the Talents and the Minas

We are currently studying God's Word concerning "The Judgment Seat of Christ", or better called "The Reward Seat of Christ", and how we can position ourselves for this future event.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Romans 14:10–12 (NKJV) ... *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

- At some point in the future, there will be this event called "The Judgment Seat of Christ", where Jesus will reward us Christians for our faithfulness in serving in His Kingdom during our lifetime on earth
- The Judgment Seat of Christ will take place in heaven
 - After the Rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
 - Before the 2nd Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:27–30)
 - (sometime during the 7 Year Period of the Great Tribulation)

Last week we spoke about the Millennial Reign of Christ, when Jesus will rule as King over the whole earth for 1,000 years.

We, the resurrected saints, will rule and reign with Him.

Our positions of authority allocated to us during that 1,000 year reign will be part of the rewards that Jesus gives us in return for our faithfulness during our present life on earth.

1. Jesus teaches about faithfulness & rewards in His parables

A parable is a story about natural things to convey to us spiritual truths.

a. The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:13–30 (NKJV) *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which **the Son of Man is coming**. 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants*

and delivered his goods to them. **15** **And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one**, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. **16** Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. **17** And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. **18** But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. **19** **After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.** **20** "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' **21** His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**' **22** He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' **23** His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**' **24** "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' **26** "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. **27** So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. **29** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. **30** And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- Jesus is teaching His disciples about His 2nd Coming (chpts 24 & 25)
- Here He lays out the Parable of the Talents to them to illustrate the importance of serving Him faithfully during His absence
- He says: "The kingdom...is like a man traveling to a far country"...vs. 14
- This is Jesus referring to Himself & His Ascension to heaven
- "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them". vs 19
- The "long time" is the church age of approx. 2,000 years
- The "lord of those servants came" is reference to Jesus' 2nd Coming
- "settled accounts with them" is reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ
- The talents given to these servants were weights of gold or silver, which is indicative of our "time, gifts, resources and opportunities" we have to serve in God's kingdom

- “each according to his own ability” means that some Christians have greater abilities than others, but in the end, we will not be rewarded for our abilities or giftedness, but for what we have done with our abilities
- To the 1st servant, the master gave 5 talents – (vs 15) (5,000 coins)
- To the 2nd servant he gave 2 talents (2,000 coins)
- To the 3rd servant he gave 1 talent (1,000 coins)
- Servant 1 and servant 2 both doubled their talents by trading, and both received the identical commendation from their master:
- Vss 21 & 23: *“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, **I will make you ruler** over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”*
- **Faithfulness in this life will be rewarded with rulership in the life to come**
- (In the Millennium, it will be the faithful who will be in charge instead of the dominant and the bossy)
- Their master commended them for their faithfulness over a few things, and rewarded them with rulership over many things
- This rulership will be exercised during the Millennial Reign of Christ
- *“Enter into the joy of your lord”* is reference to being given entry into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ
- The 3rd servant who hid his lord’s money not only missed out on any future rewards, but was also denied access into his lord’s Kingdom
- This wicked & unprofitable servant represents unsaved people who don’t submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ, nor make any attempts to serve Him

b. The Parable of the ten Minas:

Luke 19:11–27 (NKJV) *Now as they heard these things, **He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.** 12 Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country **to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.** 13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us.’ 15 “And so it was that **when he returned, having received the kingdom,** he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were **faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**’ 18 And*

the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' **19** *Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'* **20** *"Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. 21 For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'* **22** *And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. 23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that 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 him who has ten minas.'* **25** *(But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')* **26** *'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 27 But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'* "

- The content & meaning of the Parable of the Minas is very similar to the content & meaning of the Parable of the Talents
- 1 mina = a monetary unit of 100 drachmas, worth about 3 months salary
- Each of the 10 servants was given 1 mina
- **This mina represents our "time, gifts, resources and opportunities" we have to serve in God's kingdom**
- The 1st servant earned 10 minas by trading
- His master said: *"Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities"* (vs 17)
- The 2nd servant earned 5 minas
- His master said: *You also be over five cities.* (vs. 19)
- **Both servant 1 and servant 2 were given positions of authority in proportion to their faithful "employment" of their mina**
- The 3rd servant simply returned his master's mina without any profit, but with an accusation against his master
- The 3rd servant represents unsaved people who are unwilling to submit to, or serve their creator

Summary lessons from these two parables:

- Jesus takes note of our faithfulness in this life, and rewards us in the life to come
- He takes our "little" from this life, and gives us authority over "much" in the life to come
- People who are unwilling to submit to, or serve Jesus Christ cannot enter into His Kingdom