

ST. ANDREW'S, BLACKROCK & BRAY - 14TH MARCH 2021

THE PARABLES OF JESUS; THE TEN MINAS (LUKE 19:11-27)

Welcome

"Happy St. Patrick's Day! Welcome to our 'Church at Home' service transcript for Sunday 14th March 2021. Today we are continuing in our series looking at the parables of Jesus, looking at the Parable of the Ten Minas from Luke 19:11-27. I hope that this transcript will be encouraging to you today."

- Rev. Andrew Gill

Call to Worship – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.*

*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*

*Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.*

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.*

*Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.*

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have built up your Church through the love and devotion of your servants: inspire us to follow the example of Patrick, whom we commemorate this week, that we in our generation may rejoice with him in the vision of your glory.

Almighty God, in your providence you chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of you.

Grant us so to walk in that light, that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading Luke 19:11-27

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.’”

Sermon - ‘Parables of Jesus; the Ten Minas’

We ask the question ‘when?’ quite a lot. *When* will lockdown be over? *When* will I be able to get my vaccine? *When* can we go back to church? But we need to be careful that while we are waiting for the future, we do not waste the present. The bible makes it very clear that Jesus is coming back, and for the last 2000 years people have been wanting to know *when* that will happen. But Jesus never tells us *when*, but he does tell us *how* we should live our lives in light of his coming back.

Our parable for today begins in Luke 19:11, “*While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.*” After three years of Jesus' public ministry there was high expectation among his followers that he was going to Jerusalem to become a king. They thought they were on the eve of a brand new earthly kingdom. Of course we know that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to suffer and to die, but then in three days to rise again. His kingdom is a heavenly one, and his disciples were going to have to wait for it to fully appear. But while they are waiting for that certain future they have got work to do in the present. This parable is about how we can live for Jesus today, and it is a warning for us not to waste our life or to try and oppose Jesus as the king.

There are three groups of characters in this story; a nobleman, his servants, and his subjects. Let us see what Jesus says about the nobleman first, “*A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.*” (v.12) The first listeners of this story would have been familiar with how Herod the Great had to travel to Rome to be appointed king. The same thing is happening in this story, this noble man needs to travel to be made king before he can return. In this parable the nobleman represents Jesus. He will soon ascend to

heaven and the Father will put all things under his rule. This is the first important lesson we can learn from this parable – Jesus is the king of all life and he will return.

Now let us look at the servants in verse 13, “So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work.’ he said, ‘until I come back.’” A mina was a coin and would have been worth about three months wages. Each servant is told to engage in business with their mina. They are given the responsibility to continue the growth of this noble man's business. In this parable, the servants represents the disciples, and now includes all Christians. Jesus is our king, and we are his servants. We are to engage in his kingdom business by sharing his love and to spreading his gospel. Acts chapter 1 verse 8 puts this really clearly when we are commissioned to be global spirit empowered witnesses of Jesus. Just as each servant was given the same amount of money, we have all been given the same task, which is to live out our faith until Jesus returns.

We have one final group of characters to meet, verse 14, “*But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don't want this man to be our king.’*” These citizens represent the religious leaders that were opposing Jesus's ministry and would eventually plot to kill him. It reminds us that we live in a world where many people do not want Jesus to return or to be their king.

So we have a noble man on a journey to become king, servants given a task to do, and citizens trying to stop it all from happening. This is an exciting setup for a story! What is going to happen next? Will the noble man become a king? Will the servants be successful? What is going to happen with the citizens? Well let's find out as we read on from verse 15, “*He was made king however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given them money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’ The second came and said, ‘Sir your mind has earned five more.’ His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’*” It is now time for the servants to be called to their master and show what they have done with his money. The first two have invested

well and made a profit, so they have been rewarded with bigger responsibilities in the kingdom. This reminds us that we too will one day have to stand before Jesus and to give an account of how we have used our life to serve him. We should strive to be like these first two servants by being faithful. We need to make sure we live our lives in light of that eternal perspective. The sufferings and sacrifices that we endure in this life do not compare to the rewards and the glory that is to come when Jesus returns.

But there is another servant, who warns us not to waste what we have given.

“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth.’ His master replied, ‘You wicked servant!... Why didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?... I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.’”(vv.20-23, 26) The third servant was afraid and did nothing with his mina. He did not invest it, put it to work in any way, or even bring it to the bank where it could have at least gained some interest. He does not even keep it particularly safe, just wraps it up in a napkin. What was the last thing that you wrapped up in a napkin? That shows you what he thought about his master and the task that he had been given! The faithful are rewarded, but the unfaithful will be punished. This story is a warning for us not to waste what God has given us.

The story finishes with a further warning for those who oppose the rule of Jesus all together, “But to those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them – bring them here and kill them in front of me.” (v.27) This image is hard for us to read but it would have been how kings dealt with acts of treason at that time. It is a warning not to reject Christ's rule. Knowing that judgment is coming to this world should motivate us as Christians even more to live our lives to see people turn to Jesus and be saved. This parable comes straight after the story of Zacchaeus, and Jesus has just said that his mission was to seek and to save the lost (v.9-10) We should aim to live our lives towards that same goal.

As we finish let me ask you, what are you doing with what God has entrusted to you? God has given you his word. What are you doing with it? Are you reading the

Bible, are you studying it? Are you living by its truth and sharing its hope? God has given you money. Are you hoarding it and investing it solely in yourself, or are you giving it away generously, investing in the kingdom? God has given you friends, families, and neighbours. What are you doing with the opportunities you have to show them kindness, how are you loving others? God has given you the gift of prayer. How are you using it? If you want to see Christ's mission advance, and our church grow, then we need to keep praying.

We do not know *when* Jesus will return, or *when* he will call us home, but we do know *how* we can live today so that when we do meet Jesus we will hear those wonderful words, 'Well done, my good servant!' We only have one life to live, and it may not be much, but when we live our life for Jesus he can use us to do the most amazing things for his kingdom.

Prayer

May the strength of God guide us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May hand of God protect us.

May the way of God direct us.

May the shield of God defend us.

May the host of God guard us

against the snare of the evil one

and the temptations of this world.

May Christ be with us.

Christ before us.

Christ in us.

Christ over us.

May your salvation, O Lord,

be always ours, today and forever.

Amen.