

Series: Parables: Did You Hear That?  
Message Title: **The Parable About Expectations**  
Date: Sunday, October 21, 2018  
Scripture: Luke 19:11-27  
Speaker: David H. McKinley  
Location: Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, GA

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## Introduction

Have you ever done anything that did not live up to your expectations? Travel? Places to eat? Someone you met? Something you bought? Failed expectations are tough!

“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” (Luke 19:11 ESV).

There was an expectation that was going to be unfulfilled—the kingdom. Jesus let them know He was not coming to establish the kingdom, but would be going away and will return to rule at an appointed time in the future.

**MEET: A person no one expected to follow Jesus.**

Luke 19:1-8: Zaccheus.

Headline? "Greedy Tax Collector Becomes Generous Benefactor." This is salvation changed by the power of Jesus Christ inside/out!

Zaccheus did not "buy" his salvation, but his salvation brought him out of greed and selfishness to live a new life in Christ. Zaccheus demonstrated the fruits of repentance.

"And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:9-10 ESV).

Conversion is the heart of God's mission in the world. Why did Jesus come?

Lostness is the spiritual condition of the world apart from God or the knowledge of God—no clear orientation or direction.

Those who are lost, are lost in their sin. Sin separates, disorients and deceives. We cannot find our way or make our way back

to God. For this reason, God sent His Son to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

This entire portion of Luke is linked together between the testimony of Zaccheus and the story about the 10 minas:

“Since the disciples understood what Rome required of people like Zaccheus, the question would quite naturally arise, what does Jesus expect (require) of those who made their commitment to Him?”

—Pentecost

**HEAR: A parable about Jesus’ expectations of all who follow Him.**

Read Luke 19:12-27.

This parable is built around how we handle what we have been given to manage, and the mission we are to continue until Christ comes again. This is a #Metoo message for my heart today!

- **The Nobleman.** See Luke 19:12. Christ is going away to receive a kingdom.

- **The Servants.** See Luke 19:13. “Engage in business until I come.” There is a job, an assignment, a responsibility entrusted to us.

Just as Christ came to seek and save, so we who trust in Christ and are converts to His kingdom have a different context and orientation in life—kingdom life (living for the King).

For this reason, we live with a spirit of stewardship of that which we have received and are to oversee in His absence. I believe Warren Wiersbe is right, “This is a parable about service, not about salvation.”

- **The Citizens.** See Luke 19:14. They hated and rejected this nobleman—ignore the Lord and be their own lords. This is what is happening in the lost world around us. They rejected Christ and resisted the coming of His kingdom.

What we have is a story about the stewardship of the gospel given to the servants of Christ until the King returns.



## **1. God has given us the gift of the gospel.**

We have and hold the words of life in our hearts. Read John 20:31; 1 John 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.

Just as Zaccheus was changed and transformed by His encounter with Christ, so must each disciple and each of us as we repent and follow Him.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV).

## **2. God will gift us with opportunities to share the gospel.**

See Luke 19:13: "Engage in business until I come." 10 servants and 10 minas. Everyone receives the same—1 mina. I love that this puts the ownership of the advancement of

the kingdom on everyone who has been entrusted with the gospel. This is not a different measure of gifting or a different gifting altogether; it is a stewardship of the hope of the gospel that we have ALL received. We hear the report of three...

This is one of the great privileges each believer shares—some greater while other lessor—but all share = witness for Christ.

“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15 ESV).

READY-training.

The future is today. Now we live to tell of the grace and mercy of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **3. God warns us against unfaithfulness.**

Today serves as a reminder and warning—you and I still have opportunities to share and to speak the name of Jesus.

This is a warning of clear definition to the consequence of the failure to follow Christ. Road signs, warnings—not to be resented, but to be regarded. They keep us safe and they see us to our destination.

Unfaithfulness is a sin. This man's heart was not right with his Lord. He knew the Lord would return. He knew there were expectations. He claimed fear and did not honor the Lord.

The nobleman replied, "If you claimed to know something about me and did not act in accordance, you are a hypocrite—you claim a theology that lacks practice in behavior."

"God expects us to use what He gives us to make more for His kingdom. God expects us to use our theology to motivate our actions. We should act on what we know about God. There is no acceptable excuse for not acting on the truth we know about God. That very truth will condemn us. It's not that we are responsible for the truths we don't know. It's that we do with what we do know."

—Thaiti Anyabwile  
*Christ-Centered Exposition*

"It is not the things which I do not understand in the Bible which trouble me, but the things which I do understand."

—Mark Twain

We are accountable for what we know.

There is nothing more important than our handling of the hope and heart of the message of the Gospel. We are either faithful or unfaithful stewards of the message given to us. Read 1 Peter 4:17.

#### **4. God rewards faith and faithfulness.**

"And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' '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'" (Luke 19:25-26 ESV).

Note the affirmation and reward from the first two. Yet remember, God does not expect the same results from everyone, but He does expect obedience from everyone. He honors faithfulness flowing from love.



Love and faithfulness go together. This is true in marriage with a husband and wife... true with parents toward children... true with the Lord.

A life of serving Christ is a life of eternal rewards with Christ.

Sadly, in the end, there is judgment—full, final, and eternal judgment for those who reject Christ and His gift of life in His name.

Read Luke 19:27.

There are many in our world who want nothing to do with Jesus. His absence is only a greater reason for their rebellion and resistance. Yet when the Lord returns, there will be final, everlasting punishment.

"...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might, when He comes on that

Day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed” (2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10 ESV).

Here is the full and final consequence of lostness—eternal separation from God. Resistance and rebellion ends in destruction. Faith and faithfulness ends in celebration.