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## The Parables of Jesus Christ: Two Invested Wisely, One Wickedly

Harold Willmington

*Liberty University*, [hwillmington@liberty.edu](mailto:hwillmington@liberty.edu)

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## THIRTY-EIGHT: Two Invested Wisely, One Wickedly (Lk. 19:11-29)

### SURVEY

Prior to his departure to be crowned as king of a foreign land, a nobleman called together ten of his servants and entrusted to each a pound of silver. Upon his return the king discovered:

- One servant reported a ten-fold gain of the original account. He was rewarded by being appointed as governor over ten cities.
- Another servant showed a five-fold gain and became governor over five cities.
- A third servant, however, acting out of fear simply hid his pound, thus showing no increase whatsoever. An angry king thereupon took his pound and gave it to the one with the ten-fold increase.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This parable is the first of two that promises rewards for faithful usage of our gifts and opportunities but warns of punishment for not doing so. For the other parable, see #45.

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Jesus related this parable to explain both the what and the when of the kingdom of heaven.

*"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" (Lk. 19:11).*

- In fact the final question His disciples asked Him referred to this very thing.

*"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." (Acts 1:6-9)*

- Note again the introductory verse to this parable:

"He said therefore, a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return." (Lk. 19:12)

1. Dwight Pentecost suggests:

In the story Christ may well have had a historical incident in mind, for Archelaus, the son of Herod the Great, had gone to Rome after his father's death to be confirmed as ruler in Judea and Samaria. His brother Antloas had also gone to Rome seeking the same appointment. Since the Jews hated Archelaus, they lodged a protest with the emperor against his appointment; but in spite of it, Archelaus was appointed ruler of Judea and Samaria by the emperor. This well-known historical incident must have created great interest on the part of Jesus' hearers as to what He was teaching. (*The Parables of Christ*, Zondervan, p. 130.)

2. Warren Wiersbe writes:

Please note that not all the servants had the same success. One man multiplied his pound ten times, while another multiplied his five times. We must not expect everyone to produce the same results. In the parable of the sower (Mt. 13:23), some people produced fruit thirty-fold, some sixty-fold, and some a hundred-fold. God gives each of us different abilities and opportunities. He does not ask us to produce the same results, but He does ask all of us to be faithful and do our best. How do these 'cities' apply to Christians today? First, here in this life we have a greater capacity for ministry and greater opportunities for service. The pound was taken from the unfaithful servant and given to the man with ten pounds (vv. 24-26). What we do not use, we may lose, and what we use faithfully proves that we can be trusted with more. David was faithful to take care of his father's sheep, so God was able to entrust the nation to his care. Joshua was faithful as Moses' servant and God made him Moses' successor. Young Timothy assisted Paul in his ministry and in a few years was called to take Paul's place in the churches. Faithfulness in service indicates we are trustworthy to become rulers with God. (*Meet Yourself in the Parables*, Victor Books, Wheaton, Ill., 1979, pp. 154-55)

- What is the difference between the pound parable here in Luke 19 and the talent parable related shortly after this in Matthew 25? It has been suggested that the difference is as follows:
  1. The pounds represent the opportunities of life.
  2. The talents speak of the different gifts God imparts to us.
- Whatever the case, both the pound and the talent parables stress three all-important themes:
  1. My abilities and opportunities from God in the past
  2. My dependability for God at the present

### 3. My accountability to God in the future