

During the childhood of Jesus... several years **before** the events of our passage this morning... an event took place... which has clear overtones to the parable Jesus presents in today's verses. So before we get to that parable... let me relate to you what happened... so you can have it on your mind... as it most **definitely** would have been on the minds of those who listened to Jesus tell this story.

The parable Jesus gives... played off the "front-page" news... in the days of Jesus' boyhood. News that permeated everyone's memory to the day Jesus made reference to it... bringing back memories of the rise of their political ruler... who reigned over Palestine... where Jesus and His disciples lived. ... That ruler was Archelaus... and... it would seem that he had an intensely **vain** desire... He wanted Rome to grant him the title **king**.

The Romans... under whom he served... as their puppet ruler... avoided using the title *rex* (king) for such rulers. But on occasion... however... they **would** allow one of their more distinguished... vassal rulers... to be called such.

Herod the Great... Archelaus' father... **had** been granted the title. ... It was awarded to him... because of his role in helping the Romans defeat the Parthians. Mark Antony bestowed this title upon him on the very first day of Mark Antony's reign.". ... That is why he is called "**King** Herod" in the Bible.

But when King Herod died... he had left his son, Archelaus, with over half of his kingdom in his will... but the **title** could **not** be passed on. And poor Archelaus' ego took a very hard blow.

Loosing very little time... Archelaus assembled an entourage and departed for Rome. He set out to ask Caesar for the coveted title. ...The group included his mother (Malthace)... his friends (Poplas, Ptolemy, and Nicholas)... and other family members (namely, Solome and her children and various nephews and sons-in-law of the late king.

But to Archelaus' surprise... once they got to Rome... Archelaus discovered something that he probably should have verified... **before** he set out on his journey. ... Some of his family **opposed** his getting the title. They even **accused** him before Caesar. ... Then... even more surprising... a delegation of fifty Palestinians (amazingly Jews and Samaritans together) had also traveled to Rome to **oppose** him before Caesar.

Solome's children accused him first. And when the fifty Palestinians arrived... a huge confrontation took place in the lavish setting of the temple of the Palatine Apollo. ... The fifty were joined by 8,000 expatriate Jews who were living in Rome at the time.

There... before Caesar and a huge Roman crowd... the Palestinians related that Archelaus had massacred some **3,000** Jews at Passover... heaping the bodies in the temple... and then tortured others — Archelaus did all this in order to prove he was as powerful as his father. ... And if this was not enough... they argued that he was inept... corrupt... and was ruining a prosperous land...

Caesar... after listening to all of this... dismissed the great assembly. ... A few days later he announced his decision. ... It managed to satisfy **no** one.

Josephus records: "*He gave half the kingdom to Archelaus, with the title ethnarch, promising, moreover, to make him king, should he prove his deserts.*" ... Everyone returned to Palestine - **unhappy**. And Archelaus never did "prove his deserts" — he **never was** called king.

All this scandal was tucked into the Palestinian/Jewish mind. ... They relished this humiliation of their enemy. ... It was part of their lore — "Archelaus - the wanna-be." ... When Jesus proceeded to give the parable... he played upon their lingering emotions... But in Jesus' parable... it took a different turn than the Archelaus episode.

The parable Jesus told was **not** about a would-be-king. ... It is about the **true** King. ... It is about Jesus Himself. ... And the reason He tells it... is because Messianic expectation (kingdom expectation) had reached a feverish pitch among his followers.

### **Luke 19:11**

The disciples still did not understand the full extent of our Lord's plans to go to the cross. ... They still did not fully understand the reality of the spiritual kingdom of God. ... They thought that their entering Jerusalem... which is what they are about to do... would set the stage for the Lord to suddenly reveal Himself to the nation... while they were there in Jerusalem... on this visit. They were expecting Him to do something to fully assert His authority -- take the reins of the Roman and Jewish government in His hands... declare Himself Messiah... break the yoke of Rome... set the nation free from oppression... and bring in the righteous blessings of the kingdom of God in power and glory on earth.

Jesus tells them **this** parable... and brings up memories of Archelaus' humiliation... to explain that... similarly... **He** will be humiliated... **His** receiving the recognized kingship would be **delayed**... Jesus, too, would journey to a far away place... Jesus' kingship would be **opposed** (it would not be so automatic) ...there is work for His followers to do in the meantime ... Jesus will return... but unlike Archelaus... Jesus will return with **full kingship**... and everyone **will** give an account to Him. He **focuses** on the accountability of His followers... and He mentions the fatal slaughtering of those who opposed Him.

Look and see with me... now... how Jesus does all of this...

### **Luke 19:11-27**

Jesus certainly **had** their attention. ... This parable really encapsulated Jesus' Own life. Of course... His original hearers could not possibly **understand** it all then.... So what good did it do for them...? ... Well... in retrospect... after the Holy Spirit came and indwelt them... the Holy Spirit would draw their minds to these (and other words of Christ) and they would eventually see that this parable was about Jesus' kingship... and what His being King... is to mean to every follower of Jesus – even in **this** day. ... .. Because Jesus – the soon to be “Returning King” has left us **all** with responsibilities.

### **Luke 19:13**

At this point I would like to mention that **this** parable... and different parable... which looks a lot like this one... a parable that our Lord would teach His disciples on Mt. Olivet... two days before the Passover... (The

Parable of the Talents... in Matthew 25) ... have some similarities **and** some differences... but the main spiritual principle remains the same.

In Matthew 25... the Parable of the talents... Jesus has **three** servants... to one He give five talents... to another, He gives two... and to the last... He gives one talent... and to each according to his ability. But in **our** parable... Jesus investes the same amount with each one – ten minas are given to 10 servants.

The similarities... however... of both parables are inescapable. They mutually assert that the Lord was going away... and He called His followers to Himself... and gave each of them some of His money to invest in certain opportunities... in order advance the cause of the kingdom. ... When He returned... He would have a time of accounting... followed by a time of rewards for faithfulness and punishment for unfaithfulness.

A mina was equal to about **one hundred** days' wages for a laborer... or a little more than a three months' salary. ... And a major difference in today's parable from the one recorded in Matthew 25... is that Jesus gave each of His servants the *same* amount... which was this very large sum of a hundred days' wages.

In Matthew 25... the talents represent *abilities*... or spiritual gifts... given **differently** to each one. ... But here in Luke... the mina does not signify an ability... but rather the same *deposit* that is given to **every** Christian — and I propose to you that the valuable deposit... every believer receives equally... is the **gospel**. Each of us have been entrusted with this incredibly valuable resource... which we are to invest.

Every follower of Christ is a steward of the gospel. ... The Apostle Paul repeatedly used the phrase... in his epistles to the churches... that we have been "entrusted with the Gospel" (1 Thes. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:11; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 2:2). ... Each believer is entrusted with the same investment capital for his Christian life. Rick Riffle receives the same as the Apostle Paul... Jean Hamilton receives the same as John Calvin... Hey... I was given the same as Billy Graham. ... We all have the good news of Jesus Christ and its marvelous effect in our lives.

And we all have the same command, to "Put this money to work until I come back." ... We **must** invest the investment Christ has made in us! ... We are to **multiply** our spiritual capital — invest the gospel — increase the yield of the good news of salvation through Christ! ... Right now... it is a matter of our choosing... you can bury it and ignore it... but when King Jesus returns... it will be a matter of our accounting for what we chose to do with the knowledge of eternal truth that God has entrusted us with..

How involved are we... in the business of the kingdom of Christ? ... We have been called by our risen Lord to invest this Gospel with our lives... time... experience... natural talents... spiritual gifts... and financial resources. We are called to walk through open doors of opportunity with it.

Some of these spiritual opportunities are right in front of us - they are the lives of men and men who live... work... and share a common life with us in this community. ... And then there are others... who are in different parts of this country... or overseas – who our missionaries bring to our attention. ... Some are risky investments and others are not... but our

risen Lord wants us step out in faith... and spread the good news of His gospel by word... deed... time... and resource... until King Jesus returns.

In the parable that Jesus told... right after the nobleman vested his servants with the mina... his enemies attempted to thwart his kingship: (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.'"*

There are strong parallels between this story and the Archelaus episode... and between this story and Jesus, Himself — except that Jesus is a righteous King and his enemies are evil. ... But it is certainly true that the unbelieving have always **hated** Christ... They hated Him enough to crucify Him... and they hate Him still today... which is shown at times when we try to invest the treasure of the Gospel. ... We hear such things as... *"Who are you to tell me that I am a sinner...?"* ... *"Don't cram your beliefs down my throat!"* ... *"It is just wrong to push your beliefs onto anyone..."* ... *"That's just your opinion... What's true for you is not true for me..."*

Our soon-to-return King has again and again been rejected. The dark world rebels against everything He stands for.

In the case of Archelaus... the people were justified... though unsuccessful. ... In the Case of Jesus... the people are UNjustified... and... again... even **less** successful...

**Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)**

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and*

*every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

What a powerful picture this paints for us of the certain rule of Christ when he returns. ... And this morning we are seeing in our passage that Jesus will settle accounts... at His return... first... with His servants... on the basis of their investments... and then with His enemies... who rejected His kingship.

### **Luke 19:15**

This represents the Judgment Seat of Christ... the judgment of believers... and it corresponds perfectly with what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10...

#### **2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)**

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

In today's parable... the returned king then conducted interviews with huge importance:

### **Luke 19:16-19**

The first and second servants had gained an amazing 1,000 percent... and a 500 percent... respectively... on their investment. ... And notice how **humble** they were about it... taking no credit for themselves. "*Sir, your mina has earned,*" they both said.

Next... notice their rewards... ... They got entire cities!



They became co-rulers... over a certain amount of territory... and the amount given to them was determined by how well they invested the Master's treasure.

When our soon-to-return King comes back... I believe that there is a close parallel here. We... as believers... will be rewarded by becoming His co-regents... His viceroys... and confidants. I believe that we will literally rule with Him during His peaceful 1000 year reign on this earth... known as the Millennium. What joy! ... this will be for many!

I say "many"... because... the Judgment Seat will not be without its tragedy... however:

### **Luke 19:20-23**

The man made no investment. ... He simply stashed the mina (the gospel) away. ... His thoughts regarding his master were slanderous... not based on truth. He appears to have a fear that he would get no return for his work: all the profit would have been taken by the master. *"I am not going to invest this Gospel... I will be hated by those who hate Christ... Why would I want to stick my neck out and be harshly treated by others...? Jesus Himself said we will be harshly treated... He wants me to suffer - just so that He can have more worshippers...? That is pretty severe! ... You know... I got my fire insurance... I believe the Gospel... I'm going to heaven... I'll just leave it at that..."*

This soon-to-be... very **sad** Christian... slanders God in his heart and **hoards** what he has received from Christ. He carefully folds it in a cloth and stores it away. He thinks, *"I can't be active in sharing my faith... but I*

*can at least go to church regularly... give what I can... and send my children to Sunday school. ... I can take a Christian point of view... and drop hints... when I am around non-believers that I am a Christian. I am just going to wrap my religion in my handkerchief here... and conserve it."*

Such a disgraced believer **is** going to be judged.

### **Luke 19:24-26**

Every believer has been given the same gospel deposit to invest. Regardless of our abilities... if we invest it... we will receive rewards beyond our wildest imagination... We will **reign** with Christ. ... We will be his confidants. ... We will be His co-workers in His eternal endeavors. "*To everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has not [who has wrapped the gospel up and put it away], even what he has will be taken away*" (Luke 19:26).

Are you investing the gospel? ... Are you **investing** what Christ has done for us? ... Are you investing what He can do for others? ... This is a question of **faithfulness**. ... Are you using what you have to invest in the ministry of the gospel?

There are many specific applications of this question. Are we using our money to invest the Good News? ... How do you spend your time? Your personal calendar tells all. Everyone can make massive investments in the matter of prayer... but **few** actually do. ... Do the things we say invest testimony and witness? Have you wimped out ...and not walked through the doors God has regularly been opening for you... to tell others about Christ?

There can never be such a thing as a **passive** investment. ... Gospel investment requires **action**.

The parable finishes with frightening tone...

### **Luke 19:27**

This is the future for all who reject Christ. ... Our soon-to-return King will slaughter His enemies at his reappearance. ... Some people who read this... may be disturbed by the sternness of this passage. ... And I **do** hope this is the case... I don't apologize... Because horrified or not... the terrifying imagery is a solemn **fact**. ... Jesus' eminent return forces every person to decide — and the decision is a matter of life and death.

To those who have invested Christ's investment... (the Gospel)... there will be unthought-of **rewards**. ... To those who have hidden it - **shame**. ... To those who reject him - **death**.

We are at the final hour. The King is coming. How are **your** investments?