

**Theme:** When Christ the King returns, will he find you faithful and fruitful in your service to him? Or will you be judged by your own standards and beliefs? All must give an account – both those who served Him and those who would not.

**Background & Introduction:** Archelaus – Tetrarch of Palestine (4 BC – 6 AD). A deputation of Jews followed him to Rome to protest his rule over them and to oppose his “kingship”. The anticipation and expectation of Jesus rising up to take his “throne” is growing as Jesus nears Jerusalem.

## **I. The Lord’s Departure**

### **A. On a mission**

1. To a “far” country
  - a. Correcting erroneous views of the Kingdom
    - The people expected an *immediate* fulfillment
    - Many thought this was the hope and plan of Jesus
  - Crowds - John 6:15; Disciples – Mark 10:35ff, Acts 1:6
  - b. His own Journey to a “far country”
2. To receive a Kingdom
  - From where does he rule?
  - Warning: He’ll not return soon! (Matthew 25:5,19)
3. To return as King
  - Rest assured. He is coming back!

### **B. Preparations for his absence**

1. Ten servants – 1 mina each
  - Not abilities or “talents” but
  - A “deposit” to invest
2. Giving instructions
  - a. Engage in business!
    - Make good use of what I entrust to you
  - b. Our “business” is the gospel!
    - “Until he comes” (2 Peter 3:9)

### **C. Rebellion in the ranks**

1. These are his citizens
2. They *hated* him – and *rejected* Him. (Luke 23:21; John 19:15)
3. They fail to get their way! (Philippians 2:9-11)

## II. The Return of the King

A. To his own kingdom

B. Giving an account

1. Faithful servants

a. The first

- Praised and rewarded

b. The second

- He, too, is rewarded

c. Each rewarded in proportion to their fruitfulness (Hebrews 11:6)

NOTE: They knew the King to be generous and just; they acted accordingly.

2. Faithless servant

a. I wrapped it up and let it sit!!

- No fruitfulness!

b. A poor assessment of the King

- A proverb: "You take what you do not deposit, and reap what you did not sow."

c. "Rewarded" according to his faithlessness

1) Judged by his own words and ideas

2) Take away what he had! (Luke 8:18)

- Give it to the one who has already!

d. Judged!

- Unfruitful? No. *Unfaithful!*

**NOTE: Jesus is asking, Who do you believe Him to be?**

**- Just and good? Worthy of service and love?**

**- Harsh and unjust? One to be feared and rejected?**

3. His enemies!

a. They *will* see Him as the true, righteous, mighty, sovereign, holy King that he is!

b. He will judge them with holy wrath. (Romans 11:22)

## III. Awaiting His Return

A. The *King* will return

1. Kingship has been given to Jesus! He rules *now!*

2. He will come in judgment (John 5:22; Jude 14,15; Revelation 20:11ff)

B. Waiting *actively*

- How well do you know what you have been given?

- What are you doing with it?

C. Reward or rebuke

- Do you fear His condemnation?

OR

- Wait *actively* for His commendation?