

The title of this morning's sermon is, *"Entrusted with the Gospel in the Parable of the Minas."*ⁱ

We are working our way verse-by-verse through Luke's Gospel, and we find ourselves at Luke 19:11.

John MacArthur wrote, "All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving him."ⁱⁱⁱ

As you can tell from the Scripture reading we are looking at the Parable of the Ten Minas. This is one of the premier parables on stewardships, and I hope it challenges you like it's challenged me.

The parable of the minas is similar to [the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30](#), but they are not the same.

Let me briefly list the differences...

First, the parable of the talents was preached on the Mount of Olives after Jesus already reached Jerusalem, but the parable of the minas was preached on the way to Jerusalem.

Second, the parable of the talents deals with three servants, but the parable of the minas deals with 10 servants and some number of enemies.

Third, in the parable of the talents the three servants receive five talents, two talents, and one talent. But in the parable of the minas the 10 servants receive one mina each.

Fourth, talents and minas are different amounts:

- A talent was about 20 years' wages.
- A mina was about three months' wages.

Fifth, in the parable of the talents the two faithful servants doubled their investments, but in the parable of the minas one servant reports earning tenfold and the other servant reports earning fivefold.

Sixth, in the parable of the talents the faithful servants receive the same reward, which was hearing, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." But in the parable of the minas the faithful servants are put in charge of cities corresponding to the investment they returned.

Be encouraged that even if you've heard teaching on the parable of the talents, this parable is different and hopefully you will learn some new truths.

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Before we jump into the parable I want you to understand the context for it.

Briefly look one chapter to the left at Luke 18:31. Your Bibles probably have headings for this section, such as, "Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time." We know Jesus repeatedly told the disciples that he would be crucified, but they never understood it.

Luke 18:34 But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Jesus spelled out for them how he would die, but they didn't understand.

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Turn back to Luke 19 and tell me what account takes place right after the parable of the minas. Your Bibles probably have a heading that it is the triumphal entry. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem.

Now let me ask you something...

They know Jesus is heading to Jerusalem, but if they don't believe he is going to be killed, then why did they think he was going there?

To set up the kingdom! He is the Messiah, the Son of David, who will sit on David's throne.

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And there's something else that makes the anticipation for Jesus's kingdom even stronger.

Passover is only a few days away, and it was always an emotionally charged time for the Jews because it reminded them of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and made them even more upset about their bondage to Rome. During Passover the Jews looked forward to the Messiah delivering them from Rome like Moses delivered the Hebrews from Egypt.

And that is the context for this parable. Look with me at Luke 19:11...

Luke 19:11 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.

Jesus preached the parable of the minas to dispel the belief that he would be setting up his physical kingdom soon.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.

The nobleman is Jesus, and the far country is heaven. This is Jesus's way of saying, "I not setting up my kingdom on the earth right now. I must ascend to heaven I will set up my kingdom when I return."

Jesus wants his all his disciples, including us, remaining faithful between his ascension and return, so he preaches this parable.

Luke 19:13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'

The servants were supposed to use the minas, or money, to do business and when the master returned they were supposed to give back to him more than they had received.

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In the parable of the talents, the talents represent the gifts and abilities God has given us, which is why the servants received different amounts: we have different gifts and abilities.

But in the parable of the minas each servant receives the same amount, one mina, because the mina represents the gospel, which we have all received in equal measure.

Lesson One: The minas represent the gospel each of us have been entrusted with.

When I started studying this parable I didn't know the ten minas represent the gospel, but numerous commentaries made this point. Here are just two quotes of many I could give you...ⁱⁱⁱ

[Matthew Henry wrote](#): "The principal difference [from the parable of the talents] is that the [mina is] the gift of the gospel, which is the same to all who hear it; but [with] the talents...God gives different capacities."

William Hendrickson wrote, "With that mina each of these servants must do business. That is the point of the parable. Those who have heard the gospel must proclaim it!"^{iv}

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It is fitting for the minas to represent the gospel, because the New Testament says the gospel is something we have been entrusted with...like a stewardship...

1 Thessalonians 2:4 We have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.

1 Timothy 1:11 The gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

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It is fascinating to me that God entrusted us with the Gospel. Listen to this verse...

Revelation 14:6 I saw [an] angel flying directly overhead, WITH AN ETERNAL GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM TO THOSE WHO DWELL ON EARTH, TO EVERY NATION AND TRIBE AND LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE.

During the tribulation God has an angel fly around the world preaching the gospel to everyone.

I mention this because if God could have an angel preach the Gospel during the Tribulation, he could have an angel preach the Gospel during the Church Age.

Am I the only one who thinks angels could probably do a much better job than us?

- They don't have to worry about persecution.
- They don't have flesh that would tempt them to be proud, selfish, or fearful.
- They can fly! How much more effective would they be just this reason. We have been spending centuries trying to spread the gospel throughout the world and we still have unreached areas. Yet during the tribulation one angel reaches the whole world.

So, for reasons that I don't know, God has entrusted us with the Gospel.

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Maybe you have never thought of the gospel as one of our most important stewardships, but I would encourage you to do so.

If someone asked you about the most important stewardships in your life:

- Maybe you would say, "I have children. I have to be faithful to them." I'd say, "Amen!"
- Or maybe you would say, "I'm married. This is one of my most important stewardships. I must be faithful to my spouse." I'd say, "Amen!"
- Or maybe you would say, "God has given me time and money. These are two of the most important stewardships in my life, so I must be careful how I spend them." I'd say, "Amen."

But the parable of the minas encourages us to the gospel as one of our most important stewardships as well.

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Quick question...

In one word, what is required of stewards?

Faithfulness!

Listen to these two verses that make this point...

1 Corinthians 4:1 [We should be regarded] as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

This refers to the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover, IT IS REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT THEY BE FOUND FAITHFUL.

We're stewards, and faithfulness is required.

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What does it mean to be a faithful steward of the gospel?

It means to spread the gospel with others so that your mina multiplies!

Perhaps there's someone you've felt burdened to share the Gospel with. Maybe it's a coworker, neighbor, fellow student, or family member.

And maybe you've been procrastinating!

You're like the servant in Luke 19:20...

Luke 19:20 Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief;

"It's nice and safe for you, Lord."

We will talk more about this servant next week, but if you've been putting off preaching the gospel, you could be bordering on unfaithfulness!

Maybe you have been telling yourself, "I'm waiting for just the right moment." But deep down you know this is just an excuse!

I hope this parable encourages you, like it encourages me, not to put off preaching the gospel any longer. Make a commitment to preach to that person, or those people, God has put on your heart.

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We are going to skip Luke 19:14 for now. We will come back to it next week because it is connected to the end of the parable.

Skip to Luke 19:15, which should give all of us more incentive to be faithful stewards...

Luke 19:15 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.

The master is going to return, and expect all his servants to give an account of what we have done with the mina, or gospel, that has been entrusted to us.^v

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This introduces one of the more common questions I receive as a pastor: "Will Christians be judged?"

The answer brings us to lesson two...

Lesson Two: God judges our faithfulness versus our sin.

Are Christians judged?

Yes and no.

Our sins are not judged, because they were judged and paid for at the cross. But our faithfulness as stewards will be judged. This occurs at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Here are two verses discussing it...

Romans 14:10 We will all stand before the judgment seat of [Christ].

Paul's use of the word "we" shows he's talking about himself and other believers.

2 Corinthians 5:10 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.

We will give an account of our stewardship, and if we've been faithful, we will be rewarded.

The fact that the "evil" we have done is mentioned leads me to believe the sins we committed will result in loss of rewards.

So, if you say, "I won't be punished for my sins," that's true. But it's also true that when we sin we forfeit eternal rewards.

This is what Paul meant when he said...

1 Corinthians 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved.

This means loss of rewards, but not loss of salvation. We remain saved.

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Look what happens with the first servant...

Luke 19:16 The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.'

The first servant multiplied the mina he was given so that it produced 10 more minas.

Maybe this means ten people came to Christ because of his preaching?

And this brings us to lesson two...

Lesson Three: Multiplication of the minas represents the spread of the gospel.

Listen to Paul praise the Thessalonians for spreading the gospel, or we might say multiplying the minas that were given to them...

1 Thessalonians 1:8 The word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, [and] your faith in God has gone forth everywhere.

The gospel sounded forth from the Thessalonians in such a way that Paul said it went forth everywhere.

Maybe this is why Paul asked them to pray for him to be able to multiply his mina, or spread the gospel as well as them...

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you.

Basically, he said pray for us to spread the gospel as well as all of you.

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Let me show you what this multiplication of the minas looked like in the early church. Mark your spot in Luke 19 and turn to Acts 1:9.

Acts 1:9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

This is the Ascension. This is Luke 19:12: the nobleman going into a far country to receive a kingdom for himself.

Look at Acts 1:15...

Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

Notice that there are 120 believers.

Turn to Acts 2:41. Peter preaches in Acts 2:14-39...

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

This is the multiplication of minas. We just went from 120 to 3,120.

Turn to Acts 4:4. Peter and John were preaching...

Acts 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Now we multiply to 5,000. We went from 120, to 3000, to 5000.

Turn one chapter to the right and look at Acts 5:28. The apostles were preaching...

Acts 5:28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”

We are not given an exact number, but the apostles multiplied their minas so much they filled Jerusalem with their teaching, or with the gospel.

This was serious multiplication in the early church, and it reveals God’s desire with the minas he entrusts us with.

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Turn back to Luke 19:17 to see how the first servant is rewarded for his faithfulness...

Luke 19:17 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.’

The master is pleased with the servant.

It is encouraging to me that God is pleased with us even if we have only “been faithful in a very little.” If I thought I had to be faithful in very much to please God, that would be discouraging.

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The servant went from being a servant to a ruler. He got a huge promotion. He was put over 10 cities. His faithfulness earned him more responsibility. We don’t typically think of this as a reward, but the reward for serving the Lord is greater service in the future.

We’ll talk about this more in a minute.

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We see the same with the following servant...

Luke 19:18 And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’

Maybe this means five people were saved because of his preaching.

Luke 19:19 And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’

One of the parts that might stand out to you is Jesus telling the servants they have authority over cities corresponding to the number of 10 minas they returned.

We are repeatedly told in Scripture that church age believers will rule and reign with Christ. Let me go through some of the verses making this point and then I will explain what this means.

Turn to Revelation 2:26. We won’t turn back to Luke.

Jesus is speaking to the church at Thyatira...

Revelation 2:26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

Jesus says he will give authority over the nations to the one who conquers, which is another way to refer to a believer.

Revelation 2:27 and he (the one who conquers) will rule them (the nations) with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

This is a quote of Psalm 2 where God the Father promised the Son that he would rule the nations, and Jesus says he will give us some of the authority that the Father gave him.

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Look at Revelation 3:21. Jesus is speaking to the church at Laodicea...

Revelation 3:21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Again, Jesus gives authority to the saints, going so far as to say that we sit on his throne with him.

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Look at Revelation 5:10. This is the throne room of God...

Revelation 5:10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

The “them,” or the “kingdom and priests” is the church, and we “reign on the earth.”

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Listen to this verse that also discusses the authority we receive...

1 Corinthians 6:2a Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels?^{vi}

It says judge, but I take this to mean rule. Because it is talking about judging, or ruling, angels we could think this means in heaven. But in Revelation 5:10 it says be reign on the earth, because it is talking about reigning with Christ during the millennial kingdom...and this brings us to lesson four...

Lesson Four: Faithfulness with the gospel is rewarded with authority during the Millennium.

Daniel is probably the most prophetic book in the Old Testament and listen to a few verses prophesying that man rules over the kingdom...

Daniel 7:18 The saints of the Most High shall RECEIVE THE KINGDOM...22 the saints POSSESSED THE KINGDOM. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH.'

I know we have been covering a lot. Let me connect the dots to bring us to this point...

Jesus is going to Jerusalem to be crucified, but many people believe he is going to set up his kingdom on the earth. He preaches the parable of the minas to encourage us to be faithful until his Second Coming when he returns and THEN establishes his kingdom on the earth. We call this the millennium.

People who have been faithful with the gospel will be given authority to rule over cities during the millennium.

The question you probably have is, "Who are we ruling over?"

Let me briefly remind you about the prophetic, or future, order of events to answer this question.

Look at your bulletins for the order:

- Jesus's Ascension
- Then the Church Age we live in, which is Jesus's spiritual kingdom established on the earth.
- Then the Rapture of the Church - Church age believers receive glorified, incorruptible, immortal bodies.
- Then the Seven Year Tribulation, which the church avoids because we were raptured to heaven. And this is important: during the Tribulation there is a great spiritual harvest. So even though the church was raptured, other people come to faith.
- Then Jesus's Second Coming from heaven WITH the church that had been raptured (Revelation 19:11-16)
- Then the Battle of Armageddon – and this is also important – the unbelievers are executed and believers from the Tribulation enter the Millennium (Revelation 19:17-21).
- Then the Millennium, which is Jesus's physical kingdom established on the earth with the church ruling with Christ.

Let's pause looking at the order for a minute to see some verses about the Millennium. Look at Revelation 20:1...

Revelation 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit (or abyss) and a great chain.

The pit is the temporary prison for demons who possessed people. When Jesus confronted the demons who said their name was Legion it says...

Luke 8:31 They begged [Jesus] not to command them to depart into the abyss.

The devil is imprisoned in the abyss during the Millennium...

Revelation 20:2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit (or abyss), and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

The devil isn't cast straight into hell because God has one more task for him, which we will see in a moment.

There are two groups of people in the Millennium...

The first group is church age believers in glorified, immortal bodies ruling with Christ. This is us and we are described in the next verse...

Revelation 20:4a Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.

We rule over the second group, which is humans in corruptible, mortal bodies, like our current bodies. These people repopulate the earth.

They have children who must decide for themselves whether to submit to Christ. So, during the millennium the earth will be filled with believers and unbelievers...who we reign over.

Sadly, many will not submit to Christ, which brings us to the next event on the prophetic calendar...

- The Battle of Gog and Magog: unbelievers from Millennium defeated (Revelation 20:7-10)

Look at Revelation 20:7...

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

These are unbelievers who follow Satan when he's released.

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The last two events on the calendar...

- Then the Great White Throne Judgment: unbelievers are sent to hell (Revelation 20:11-15)

This is the judgment for all unbelievers...

Revelation 20:15 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

If you're in Christ, you will never stand before the Great White Throne, which is the terrifying judgment unbelievers face when they pay for their sins by spending eternity in the lake of fire.

After this is...

- Then the New Heaven and the New Earth, and we no longer reign with Christ during this eternity.

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Let me conclude with this...

God has entrusted us with the gospel. I don't know what more important stewardship we could have. If we are faithful, we receive greater authority when reigning with Christ.

If God has put on your heart to share the gospel with someone, but you've been putting it off, consider the gospel:

- Delivers us from the lake of fire.
- Transfers our eternity to the New Heaven and New Earth

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If you have any questions or I can pray for you in any way, I'll be up front after service, and it would be a privilege to speak with you.

Let's pray.

ⁱ Done:

- [What is the meaning of the Parable of the Ten Minas? | GotQuestions.org](#)
- The Stewardship of Outreach – Part I
- The Stewardship of Outreach – Part II.
- God's Goodness and Severity
- Wiersbe
- ESV study Bible
- Moody
- <https://youtu.be/1ezvv6QCCRU?t=2146>

ⁱⁱ John MacArthur, *1 Corinthians*, Moody, 1984, p. 108.

ⁱⁱⁱ Warren Wiersbe wrote, “[The mina] probably represents the message of the gospel.” Page 253.

[Joseph Benson wrote](#) the 10 servants and the mina given to them represent: “The apostles and first preachers of the gospel, to whom Jesus gave endowments fitting them for their work, and from whom he expected a due improvement of those endowments in the propagation of the gospel [and] all who did or should hereafter profess to receive his gospel, and to be his disciples and servants.”

^{iv} William Hendrickson, *New Testament commentary: Luke*, page 860.

^v Sometimes much time passes between a few verses. This is one of those instances: we live in the space between Luke 19:13 Luke 19:15. So far 2,000 years has passed as we wait for the master to return and settle accounts with us.

^{vi} **Hebrews 2:5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.**

This means the authority in the coming age is not given to angels, but to man.

Take your minds back to the creation account. Who did God originally put in charge?

Man!

Listen to these verses, and in particular the repetition of the word **over**...

Genesis 1:26 God said, “Let...man...have dominion OVER the fish of the sea and OVER the birds of the heavens and OVER the livestock and OVER all the earth and OVER every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”...28 God said, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion OVER the fish of the sea and OVER the birds of the heavens and OVER every living thing that moves on the earth.””

You can't miss the repetition of the word over describing man's authority over all of creation.

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At this point you're probably saying something like, “*Who is man that God would give him so much authority? What is so special about man that God would put him over all creation?*”

The author of Hebrews anticipates his readers thinking this, so look at **verse 6**...

Hebrews 2:6 It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?”

Basically, why would you do so much for man?

This is a quote of **Psalm 8:4-6**.

You could wonder, “*Why does the author talk this way, saying it has been testified somewhere, instead of quoting the chapter and verse?*”

Because the chapter divisions didn’t come until 1227 and the verses until 1551.

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We don’t get an answer to the question. Instead, we get a description of the situation...

Hebrews 2:7a You made him for a little while lower than the angels;

We have been made lower than the angels. We talked about this earlier.

Hebrews 2:7b you have crowned him with glory and honor,

Referring to us being put over everything.

Hebrews 2:8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. (Now notice this...) At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

We were put over everything, but that’s not the case now, or at the **present**.