

The Story of the Nobleman

Ազնուականի Պատմությունը

Luke 19:11-27

For this morning's sermon, I chose this parable, **the Parable of the Ten Minas, which** I will call **the Story of the Nobleman**.

The story is a simple one. There was a nobleman who was planning on going away to a distant country to be crowned as a king. However, before going away he called his servants and gave them ten *pounds*, or *minas* (three months' wages) and asked them **to put the money to work**. The nobleman commanded the servants to invest the minas he entrusted them until the day of his return. Some suggest "**because he would return one day**" would be a better translation. Both translations are complementary. The important point is: "Put whatever is given to you to work; one day the nobleman will return as a king and will ask you for your inventory. Are you ready?"

How was a king crowned in those days?

Palestine was occupied by the Romans and if someone wanted to be king, it was required that the person traveled to Rome to meet the Senate. They would appoint the new king. **All the kings in Jesus' time, like King Herod, were appointed in Rome.**

Now they would either take one's request and appoint him king, or they would refuse him and put him in jail.

Therefore, when the nobleman said he was going, and that he would return as king, the servants had to believe in this and expect his return as a king. Did they? Well, let us find out.

The Nobleman went away and gave the servants a task. He promised that he would return as A king.

The question is, "**Do you trust this Nobleman or do you have doubts about his promise?**"

If he returns as king, what a joy! If he does not, it can be costly.

Jesus is challenging his disciples. This is happening right after the **Zacchaeus event**. Can you see how the disciples and the followers of Jesus were surprised when Jesus invited himself to enter and dine with Zacchaeus?

Luke tells us more about this event:

“While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.” (19:11)

Jesus knew that his followers would have doubts about him. Jesus knew they would be discouraged if the **“Nobleman”** delayed his return as King. **This parable has a message for the followers of Jesus then and now.**

Let us return to the parable.

-The Nobleman **entrusted the minas to his servants** and went out to a far country. His servants are now his ambassadors, his representatives. **Yet they faced an opposition from the people.**

“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don't want this man to be our king.’” (14)

In the Greek text, even the word *man* does not appear. **“We don't want *this* to be our king.”**

This is a huge insult in the Middle Eastern context. **“We don't want *this* to be our ruler.”**

Do you see how the “world” rejects our King Jesus to be their ruler?
Why?

Jesus promised that he would return. He is crowned king in heaven. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We know it, I hope you know it, but the world does not know it.

What are we going to do about it?

Are we waiting for a secure time to do our investments, to do our ministry?

Illustration: When we got married in 1986, I said to my wife, “Let us not have children as long as Lebanon does not have a president and the Civil War is still going on.” After 4 years, we had Nanor, and Lebanon still struggles to have a president, a government; and political conflicts are not over. Until today, Lebanon is turmoil and in an economic disaster.

So the question is, “When is the right time to invest for the Lord?”

How does the story end?

The King, the former Nobleman came back, and asked his servants to come and see Him.

We read:

“Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.”

The King will ask for the inventory.

“What did you do with the minas?

How much business have you done?”

Or

“What did you do with your church ministries?

Did you work hard to represent Christ in the marketplace, in the world?”

All the servants received ten minas.

One of them gained ten more. The King was pleased with that. Please listen carefully to what He said:

“Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied.’ Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.” (16)

“Good Job, for being faithful and trustworthy.”

-The world teaches us about success.

-God teaches us about being faithful, trustworthy.

God is searching and examining our hearts. He is looking if His servants are faithful in His fields.

This is what we see in the parable. Another servant made five minas. The King was also pleased about that.

Please notice: it is not how much one makes, but it is putting the “minas,” the abilities God gave in the first place, in action.

The one who did put away the ten minas and hid them was punished.

Why?

He said: **“Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow” (21)**

He was saying part of the truth.

He was afraid of the Nobleman. That is right, but the reason of his fear is not right.

In the Middle East, there were two kinds of men, farmers and Bedouins.

Bedouins were praised for their wild life. They stole things, they took things that did not belong to them, and they became the head of the tribe.

The third servant said those words describing the Nobleman: “You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow”, “You are like a Bedouin!

The Nobleman was not a Bedouin. He was an honest and noble man. If you realize the Nobleman judged this servant by his own words, “I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant.” (22)

The Nobleman was harsh with him. He was judged to death.

For two reasons:

a- He was not faithful in investing the minas. He denied being the ambassador of the KING.

b- He misjudged the Nobleman. He threw accusations at him.

The servant brought the judgment on himself by being lazy, fearful, and trying to find excuses.

Application:

The question that I raise this morning,

What kind of servant would you like to be?

We are called to be his faithful stewards.

We are called to be his faithful ambassadors.

The world will reject Jesus, and will reject us.

We will not stop from being His faithful servants.

Jesus was very clear. He said: **“Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”** (Matthew 10:32-33)