



Life Group Study Notes

"Kingdom Come"

Pastor James Lowe - January 28, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What do you like to do with your time?
- What kinds of things do you give your time to that you consider to be important?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Luke 19:11-27 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. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' But his citizen hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 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 first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' 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.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord your mina has made give minas.' And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' Then another came saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I have kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow. He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not ow? Why then did you not put m money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest? And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' And they said to him, ' Lord, he has ten minas! I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

From the moment Jesus began to preach, He preached about the Kingdom. In this parable He seeks to answer a question about how the Kingdom operates. Most people believed that the kingdom would come immediately and suddenly with the King overthrowing the enemies of Israel. Instead, Jesus is saying that the world already belongs to God. Everyone is residing in God's kingdom, but there are three categories of people within that Kingdom, and three different kinds of responses to them once the King returns to rule.

The first category represents the people who hear God's word, and know His will and carry it out gladly. They are rewarded with more. God gives us all time and talent over which to steward. The first category of person recognizes that these things are all from God, and uses them to conduct kingdom business. We have to ask ourselves to what are we allocating our time and talents.

The second category of people are those whom for all intents and purpose say they follow God, but do not actually do the things which God commands. They groan and complain, and blame God. They think of their time and talents as their own, and instead of using them to honor the one who gave them to them, they bury their talents. God responds to them by letting them know that they are wicked and false. Instead of giving them more, God will take even what they have and give it to someone more responsible and faithful.

The last category of person in the kingdom is the most tragic. They are those who reject the King, and do not want to be ruled by Him. They don't want to do things His way, nor do they want to honor God as king. The only thing that waits for them is destruction.

Jesus lays out the business of the Kingdom very plainly so that we are without excuse. What kind of person will you be? Will you recognize that God is good, and desire earnestly to multiply what God has given you? Will you be the kind of person who honors God with your lips, and yet your heart is far from Him? Will you reject God altogether? Does your heart break for the things that breaks God's heart? Will you go to reach the lost the same way that Christ reached you with the message of the Gospel? Our desire is to see God's kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This mission will be accomplished when you and I preach the Gospel, and live transformed lives growing in and reflecting God's image.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some talents that you think God has given you?
- In what ways can you go about sharing the Gospel?
- What are some things that you can change to begin being wise with your time and talents?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that we would discern God's will, and have the courage and the heart of obedience to do what God is telling us to do.
- Pray we would have a heart that beats for what is in God's heart.