

Living in the Past, Present & Future **Luke 19:11-27**

My wife turned 40 years old this past week! My gift to her

- Sometimes we wish we could go back and relive the past!
- Other times all we want to do is arrive at some point in the future!
- Sometimes we only live for today & neglect both the past & the future!

We started singing Christmas songs today, and it's not even Advent yet! However, it's the advent of Christ (the past) that changes everything for us!

These aren't just songs for Christmas, they are songs for Christians!

The Christmas story gives definition to every aspect of our story today!

"O come o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!"

"O come all ye faithful (to Bethlehem), joyful and triumphant!"

The "already" not only informs, but also transforms, how we live!

"This is my story, this is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long!"

But there is another reality that also informs & transforms our lives, and **that reality is the "not yet" (the future) – that Jesus Christ is coming again!**

There is another "advent" to come! Jesus will return in glory as King! That truth ought to change how we live today, and every day, as well!

We are living in the midst of the "already" and the "not yet", the time between the 2 advents of Christ, and **what we do with that time matters!**

"Watching & waiting, looking above. Filled with His goodness, lost in His love!" How are we to interpret this line from the song we just sang?

Living in the "already" & "not yet" should not make us passive, but active participants. We are "watching & waiting", but we are to be also "doing." We are recipients of His "goodness" & "love", and we have a job to do!

This brings us to our "Jesus Story" for today – the parable of the 10 Minas. This parable is similar to the parable of the talents, but w/ a few differences.

The context to this story is that Jesus was headed to Jerusalem with His disciples, but they had very different intentions for the purpose of going!

The disciples thought Jesus' 1st advent was His inauguration party to the throne. But Jesus knew that His 1st coming served a very different purpose.

Yes, **the time will come for Jesus' Kingdom to arrive in all its power, but that time has not yet come** – for the disciples, nor has it come for us today!

Jesus wants to make this point, to both His disciples & to us, but He also wants to teach us about how to live until that day does finally come!

"A nobleman (Jesus) went into a far country (Heaven) to receive for himself a kingdom (a people unto Himself here on earth) and then return (to earth)."

"Calling ten of his servants, he gave them 10 minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come'." There will be time, but it is not wasted!

The number of servants and the amount of money doesn't matter as much as that they were all given something to steward, for him, in his absence.

Each one of us have received from Jesus, not only eternal life, but also gifts, for the purpose of using them for the growth of His Kingdom.

What have we been given? How are we using these gifts? There will always be some who reject Jesus & His purpose in this world! Don't be #d among them!

Upon Jesus' 2nd advent, He will have received His Kingdom & He will call everyone to account under His rule & reign. To those who have rejected Him, their lives will be taken, & to all those who have received from Him, they will give an account for what they have done leading up to His arrival!

To the one who was given one mina, & who turned it into 10, he was given authority over 10 cities! **The "how" doesn't seem as important as the result!**

To the one who was given one mina, & who turned it into 5, he was given authority over 5 cities! **The reward was in proportion to what was gained!**

Remember that the gift of salvation can never be earned or repaid, but the gifts of God, given to us for the purpose of being involved in the work of God, those gifts will either have a reward attached to them, or they will be taken from us!

We see that in the one who was given one mina, & who hid it away in a tissue, what he had was taken away from him & given to the one who had 10.

What we do with the gifts we have received from God matters! He is building an eternal Kingdom for Jesus, & we are either co-laborers in that work, or we don't belong in this Kingdom! May our past, future & present belong to Him!

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