

Preparing for Eternity

Luke 19:11-27

Introduction

Believers are to live their earthly lives with God's future kingdom in mind. We have everything we need in order to do this successfully. Just as the slaves were entrusted with resources given to them by their ruler in Luke 19:11-27, the believer has been entrusted with resources to manage and to invest for the kingdom in the absence of the King. He has given us time, talents and treasures and how we use those in time will determine how we are rewarded in eternity.

We will be asked to give account for how we used what God has entrusted to us, and we will be held accountable for how our lives are used for the kingdom and for His glory. When the King returns, He expects us to have multiplied what He has given. God doesn't expect us to give back to Him exactly what He gave to us. He expects us to magnify, multiply it and maximize it for His kingdom. We must live in expectation of the question we will have to answer – what did we do with what He has given us? While the idea of stewardship of God's resources is not tied to our eternal salvation, it is tied to our heavenly rewards. Rewards or condemnation will be appropriately applied based on how we answer the question. (1 Corinthians 3:9-15)

The good news is that the more we invest, the more we will receive in return for our efforts. The more we can show Him what we did for Him, the more we will get from Him. In Luke 19, a master returns to inquire as to the effective use of resources left to his servants. Each servant did not receive the same accolades or approval as the other. The master responded to each servant differently based on how they handled what he left in their care. Believers should live with the awareness that there can be reward for a life well lived, but there can also be judgment for those who did not value their salvation enough to invest in the Kingdom to come. It is wise for believers to live with the end in mind.

Getting Started

1. What resources are you working with? What time, talents, or treasures have been entrusted to you?
2. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how would you rate how you have used what God has entrusted to you?

Let's Get Personal

1. Do you make decisions with the future kingdom in mind? Why or why not?
2. We often forget that what we have is not our own. Why is it difficult to keep the perspective that we are stewards?
3. What can you do to keep this truth front and center as you live out your life day by day?

Take the Next Step

1. If you knew that God planned to call you home to heaven at the end of this year, what would you do differently with the resources God has given to you?
2. How should you reprioritize your thinking and decisions to reflect that eternity is more important than time? What can be done to make up for lost time?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at Luke 14:12-14, Revelations 22:12, and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Renew Your Mind

"I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away."

Luke 19:26
