

Luke 19:11-27 Faithful servant?

For Growth Groups wk comm 26/2/24

Warm up: Have you ever had to give a hard word to another person? (perhaps a word of correction or warning)? OR have you ever had to receive a hard word from another person? How did it go?

Parables are given to make us ask questions. In this parable Jesus delivers a hard word, as well as a comfort.

Pray and Read Luke 19:11-27.

1. What questions does this parable raise for you?

There's a good chance that if it's a question for you, it's a question all of us have.

If no suggestions forthcoming, you could add:

- *What is a mina? (=100 drachma = 100 days wages. So if yearly wage = \$50k, 1 mina ~ \$12.5k).*
- *Why does it wrap it in a cloth? The verse answers*
- *Is nobleman a king without mercy: 'kill them in front of me'? Is this hard? Need to think about this.*

Some parables are relatively simple. But this parable has many parts. Let's ask some simple answer questions.

Some context questions:

2. Who is Jesus speaking to? (*v11a points back to v7 and v3 and 18:36*).
3. Why does Jesus tell this parable? (*v11b gives the reason*)

Now the parable:

4. Who are the different people involved here?

Note: not just a king and his servants. Notice also 'his subjects', or 'his citizens' (ESV)/

5. How might the nobleman's going away be connected to Jesus?

It could be referring to his going away to his death, and return in resurrection.

But it more likely refers to Jesus' going away in death/resurrection/ascension and his return in glory.

6. Is the task he gives his servants easy or hard: why do you say this?

Easy: everything is given and the instruction is to be active, not to achieve a certain result;

At the same time hard: it requires obeying the master.

7. In your own words, summarise the responses to the noblemen in vv14-21.

Citizens/subject oppose and hate him; servants #1 & 2 are faithful to him; servant #3 is called wicked.

8. Our attention is drawn to servant #3. Is his reason for not obeying justifiable?

He calls the master a hard man who takes. But the parable describes a king who gives.

9. Are you comforted or disturbed by the outcomes in v26-27 for the wicked servant and the king's enemies? What does Jesus intend for his listeners (and why)?

I think we're supposed to be disturbed into action. Or better disturbed into a life of faithfully responding to the king.

Implications / Application

10. Because the kingdom of God is both now AND not yet, how does this parable teach us?

Faithfulness with all that we've given, knowing that we'll one day be asked about our life serving the king.

11. What comforts does Jesus give to faithful servants here?

What warning does he give to wicked servants?

What message does our church need to hear?

Comforts include the promise of his commendation 'well done!'; the promise of rewards for faithfulness; reward meaning greater responsibility in the new creation!

Warnings include his condemnation 'you wicked servant' and everlasting destruction from him (v27). We need this 'hard medicine' from God. It aims to help us to tell us the consequence of living a life opposed to God.