

## ***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***

### ***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

It was our sons wedding day. He and his wife had chosen to be married at the place that had met and fallen in love - under a mighty Oak tree in a small field on the grounds of Stillwater Camp. It is a gorgeous place but not a very large property. So when the guest list began to grow concerns began to arise about how we they would accommodate so many cars and people. The solution was simple have their guest park in the far field and walk about a 1/4 back towards the location of the wedding. The field where the wedding took place was alongside the entrance road. The big concern here was that no one would park on the entrance road and provoke the neighbor. On the day of the wedding everything was clicking just fine until folks began to drop off their families and a line began to develop on the lane.

And then it happened the neighbor came out to threaten their guests with a weapon. It got interesting for a minute to say the least.

Not sure if we ever shared that with Logan and Holly. But it would not have surprised them. The neighbor was a known menace. He had often and unfortunately frequently threatened others. He remains an angry man who lives in a dilapidated property filled with several cars and belongings that are uncared for. The story as much as I understand it is that over 20 years ago he received a large sum of money ( an inheritance or something like that ) and attempted to live off of the funds for some time. He did not invest the money but used it without restraint and of course it did not take long before he found himself out of money surrounded by worthless junk. But to make matters worse he had become angry towards almost anyone who he meets as he sees them as a threat to the little pile of earthly goods that remain. No one was hurt and we had a beautiful wedding that day.

The unfortunate thing is that to my knowledge to this day that man remains angry and bitter and continues to loose the blessing of how many lives have been touched and impacted on the property right next to him. On the property next to him a Friend of mine and his wife cover 20 years choose to sell all of their possessions and take an inheritance recently given to them to purchase a dilapidated camp that had not been used for years. It was the old Gospel Temple Campground - I believe the name was Temple Timbers. It had been years since it had been used as any kind of a camp. Within in a short time of cleaning and updating the buildings they began to host camps for inner city kids.

Over the past 20 years they have had thousands of children and adults hosted on the grounds. Thousands who have made decisions to follow Jesus - Hundreds who have been baptized in the little pond. And countless men and women whose life destiny was set in an encounter with Jesus! Jim and Elaine have taken this same kind of work into Wooster South Africa over the past 15 years and the camp is now an official training ground for residents of Chain O Lakes correctional facility. Hundreds of lives have been touched and impacted now around the world through that little camp.

Yet Jim and Elaine have little more to their name financially than when they started. It is highly likely that they have less than their angry neighbor. Yet over the past 20 years that I have known and worked with them is this incredible contrast of the Economy of the Kingdom on one side and the Economy of the earthly kingdom on the other side of the fence!

I want to talk to you about the Economy of the Kingdom from Matthew 25 and Luke 19 - Jesus parable of the Talents.

---

***And the secret is simply this Christ in you!***  
***Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.***  
***Col 1:27b JB Phillips***

# ***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***

## ***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

This is an incredible story that Jesus tells - but it is one that we can often make misapplication towards. This is not a parable about money - even though it talks about money, this is not a parable of faith even though it involves faith, it is not a parable about salvation even though it affects eternal destiny - This beloved is a powerful story about the Economy of God and a powerful Invitation and Challenge for those listening.

### **Whose Economy will you live by?**

- To engage in an intentional Lifestyle of Stewardship towards the Eternal Kingdom?
- To ignore the Eternal Kingdom in preference to our own short sided wisdom?
- The invitation to partner in the Eternal wealth of the Kingdom of God and share in the reward of realm we did not earn or create but are invited to enjoy together!

Now this parable is recorded by both Matthew and Luke - Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27 - I am going to invite you to read it with me from Luke 19 and I will be primarily referencing Matthew 25 as I teach from the text.

*11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. 12 So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. 13 And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' 14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 15 When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. 16 The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your Mina has made ten minas more.' 17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' 18 The second came, saying, 'Your Mina, master, has made five minas.' 19 And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' 20 Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your Mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' 22 He \*said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' 24 Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the Mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' 25 And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' 26 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. 27 But these enemies of mine, **who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.**"*

This parable begins with a man in Matthew and a Nobleman in Luke

- Matthew 25 a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.
- Luke 19:12-14 A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself and then return.....called his slaves and said to them 'Do business with this until I come back'

**In both accounts time pass's between his return -**

---

***And the secret is simply this Christ in you!***  
***Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.***  
***Col 1:27b JB Phillips***

# ***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***

## ***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

So at the center of the story is the mans choice to leave his estate with his slaves.

- You see what gets lost in the telling of this parable is what the Nobleman did.
- We often relate this story to our talents or to the idea of just being faithful with what we have.....those are not bad points - they just miss the magnitude of what the Nobleman did.

Matthew 25 **the Nobleman gave ‘talents’ to his servants** - what are Talents?

- Not an ability....
- A Talent was a actually a measurement of weight -
- A Talent was the largest measurement of money in Jesus day - it was not constant because it mattered what was being weighed.....Gold - Silver - Bronze.

So many scholars differ on what a Talent was worth - **the point is that it was a LOT.**

- **Mattering on the what was weighed it could be for the common laborer One Talent was equivalent to 15-20 Years of wages!**
- **5 Talents! We are talking about Millions of dollars!**

**What this Nobleman did ( according to Jesus in Luke 19 about helping his friends understand the Economy of the Kingdom) was not a Monday night Investment Club!**

- He was entrusting His Possessions to his slaves! **Not bankers or brokers....**

Again Jesus backdrop is to address this expectation that the Kingdom was going to appear immediately - Jesus point was Yes but not without your participation!

- **The whole point of this parable was this incredible Invitation to take this mass of wealth and partner with it!**

**That in NO WAY represented a slaves ability or accomplishment - it was entrusted to them!**

- To Join in a partnership with the Owner - to experience what they would never be able to based on their own ability or accomplishment!

**In this parable there is an intentional Delay**

- whose sole purpose is to Invite those who would never be able to - to engage in a Lifestyle of the Owner!
- Enter into the Joy of the Father!
- **Luke 15 Joy in Heaven and on the heart of Heaven as a result of souls being saved....**

**Think about this - this slave gets to enter into the Joy of what he did not attain or achieve!**

Here you are a Slave....

- But Now you can live like an Owner....
- **The Challenge - Whose Economy will you live by?**

**The first two are commended given increase and reward NOT on the basis of metrics and measurement.....but Faithfulness - Word used there means belief!**

**The last slave who is called wicked and lazy**

- was confronted because of **his fear and in-submission to his master.**

---

*And the secret is simply this Christ in you!*  
*Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.*  
*Col 1:27b JB Phillips*

# ***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***

## ***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

- He called the owner harsh....same word as was used to describe Pharaoh in Exodus.....when he required the slaves to produce bricks without straw!
- **He required something that was impossible to achieve!**

This last slave allowed fear to become his god!

- Jesus describes the heart of this lot in Luke 19 who said *'we don't want this man to rule over us'*

### **To Steward this talent is to recognize his rulership**

- this slave because he does not want to submit harbors a view in his heart to justify his lack of engagement.
- Do he decided other things were worth his time and energy.
- Nothing in the Owners actions aligns with the accusation but it freed the slave to choose self over submission! Sound familiar?

**I want us not to miss this - the goal of the Owner was an increase of His Estate - not an increase of the slaves ability but of what represented the Owner!**

**So here are the basic ingredients of the Parable:**

#### **Talents - vast -**

- Resources are NOT the Slaves but the Owners = Talent = Resources of Gods Kingdom!
- Lets be clear again when looking at this parable we are not talking about your ability but the Resource of Heaven given to us upon the Earth - **Righteousness Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit!**
- Jesus in Luke 19 made it clear He is talking about the Kingdom

#### **Time -**

- Intentional delay to invite the Slaves into the Owners affairs = this delay called life in the Kingdom of God is about an Invitation into the Grace of God!
- Stewardship - "immediately the first two began to 'engage'" in a Lifestyle of Stewarding what was given to them!
- **Again the Invitation is to a Lifestyle of stewardship!**

#### **Increase or Profit for the Owner -**

- the owner expected some kind of involvement and increase with those who were faithful - living out faith!
- **Profit** = in biblical terms is found in places like Ephesians 2 :4-10 read , 3:10.
- Beloved profit in Biblical terms is men and women in whom God can be seen, heard and smelt! The theological term is called Theosis becoming more like Him!
- Remember Jesus told this parable on the backdrop of those who expected an immediate shift!

#### **The Kingdom is going to Appear!**

- Then all the pressure of poverty, the intimidation of Rome, the fear of the future.....
- Jesus tells this powerful parable to present both Invitation and Challenge to His friends

---

***And the secret is simply this Christ in you!***  
***Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.***  
***Col 1:27b JB Phillips***

# ***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***

## ***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

into the Economy of the Kingdom...

### **Invitation -**

- The Vast Economy of the Kingdom has been entrusted to His friends!
- Beloved the Power of God and the Wisdom of God are not found in our ability or achievements but in the Cross.
- The message of the Gospel He has entrusted to us! The Lavish Grace of God has appeared beloved!

### **What does that mean?**

- It means that we are invited to agree with Him that we lack absolutely nothing!
- This Gospel is greater and beyond anything we could ever bring to the table.

### **Challenge -**

- To be found as the Good and Faithful Servant - beloved this is so much MORE than just giving some of time - talent and money in the offering plate.
- Beloved to be Faithful with His Talents is to choose to invest my life into that very resource!

*Do not store up for yourself treasure on earth....where moth and rust destroy....but store up for yourselves treasure in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy  
For where your treasure is there you heart will be also!*

- Can I just put everyone at ease - this parable is not about filtering out bad investors....
- **It is a call to investing our life into the Resource that has been entrusted to us -**

**We have been given a Kingdom and the Good News of that Kingdom that at the end of the day is an invitation to Partner to See that Kingdom Increase!**

- **God anticipates the increase of Himself in us!**

### **Invitation -**

- to enter into the Joy of the Father!
- This is amazing that we are invited to join in the Joy of Heaven beloved!

### **Challenge - *Do business with this until I come back....***

**Challenge is to not allow the perception of time and distance to distort the Motives of the Master!**

- Faithfulness is to believe the heart of the owner!
- Requires submission to Lordship!
- The passion of the flesh that says we do not want this man to reign over us....
- **We want to be our own god!**
- **Evil Lazy slave decided other things were more important** than to give his attention and affections to what had been entrusted to him.

**Again I want you to see this - this is not an issue of who came back with the most ( metrics ) but an overall issue of surrender**

- Judgment in this parable was ultimately set by what value system the slave choose to live by

---

*And the secret is simply this Christ in you!  
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.  
Col 1:27b JB Phillips*

***THE ECONOMY OF THE KINGDOM***  
***MATTHEW 25:14-30, LUKE 19:11-27***

---

- Judgment will occur in our life based upon the system we choose to live by.

1 Cor 1 He choose the weak, the despised the things that are not....are the very things He choose's!

---

*And the secret is simply this Christ in you!*  
*Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.*  
*Col 1:27b JB Phillips*