

Our King is a Just JudgeNovember 6, 2016 | 2nd Sunday of End Time**Luke 19:11-27**

¹¹ Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ¹² Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶ Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' ¹⁹ Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.' ²⁰ "Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. ²¹ For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' ²² And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.' ²⁵ (But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.') ²⁶ 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ²⁷ But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'"

Are you ready for this election to be over? On Tuesday this week, millions of Americans will be heading to the ballot boxes to color in the oval circle next to the name of the candidate who will best represent their interests in the White House. And four years from now we will be doing the same thing again—but one thing never changes from election to election no matter who the candidates are: that sinking feeling of disappointment. They didn't live up to their word. They soared into the White House on a pile of promises, many of which were broken or never kept. Isn't it nice to know that we have a Leader who never breaks a promise? Jesus as our King and Judge always keeps His Word. That is especially comforting to know on "final judgment Sunday" that our King is a just Judge. He proves His right to rule and judge with His credentials and He executes perfect justice.

I. He has the right credentials

Over the last month, we've seen a number of political advertisements... probably too many. Each one is meant to be an attack on the other candidate's credentials, each one is an attempt to prove that the opposing candidate, either due to a lapse in moral judgment or lack of experience does not have what it takes to be the president of the United States. Their right to rule is contested.

This crowd following Jesus on His way up to Jerusalem had just seen Jesus openly embrace and stay at the house of Zecchaeus the tax collector, and now they are wondering whether or not

Jesus is the right candidate for their kingship—what kind of king were they getting? In answer to their question, Jesus tells this parable to establish his credentials as their rightful King and Judge. But Jesus' parable assumes a common understanding of the political workings of the Middle East under Roman rule, so we'll take a moment to examine this.

Just as in our day today, there are certain hoops you have to jump through to become president, there was a process for becoming a king in the ancient world. But instead of being chosen at local caucuses, the candidates had to present themselves before the distant Roman Senate or the emperor, and there they had to offer their credentials to prove their right and ability to rule. The people being ruled, had the right to openly contest each candidate but this was risky, because if that candidate ascended to the throne, it was common practice for kings to publicly execute anyone who opposed them—aren't we glad that isn't the case anymore!

But with a few simple words, Jesus indicates exactly what He has done to earn the right to rule as our King and our Judge. He compares Himself to a "man of noble birth." Unlike the Herodian Kings who ruled Israel in His day, Jesus was not a foreign imposter—He is true man and the direct descendant of King David. As true man, Jesus understands and sympathizes with His subjects—people like you and me. He knows what it is to work a hard day's work, He knows hunger and embarrassment, difficulty and hardship, He knows a mother's love and a father's discipline. But Jesus' greatest credential is the fact that He is also true God: The 2nd person of the Trinity. As true God He knows and delivers perfect justice.

However, Jesus' reign is not just based on quality traits. His right to rule is based on the integrity of his past actions. Before becoming king, the man first went on a journey. Only the term we would say in English he "passed away." The polite way of saying someone died. This journey that Jesus described was foreshadowing very same journey He was on now—a journey up to Jerusalem to claim His throne; not a golden seat or a padded chair in the Oval office, but a throne of wood and iron. A throne of blood and shame; suffering and death. He would die for His subjects. Endure the most severe suffering and death—even hell in the place of the world. He would rise again, ascend to His Father in Heaven; receive glory and honor and praise for reaching the end of His journey. It is on the basis of these credentials that the Father has given Jesus "all authority in Heaven and on Earth."

II. To execute perfect justice

But our King will come back. He will return to His blood-bought kingdom and on the day He returns—what will He find? Now, Jesus focuses our attention on each of us. We are His servants waiting for His return, but to each one of us He has entrusted something very special: His mina. Now, a mina was a coin worth three months' wages. So even in our terms, this is an amount of money to be taken seriously (\$10,000). But notice how each servant gets the same amount? Then each servant is commanded to put that money to work? The mina, or the treasure that each servant is left with is the Gospel found in God's Word. It is the wonderful treasure that He has given to each of us to use for our own salvation and the salvation of others. Jesus teaches us to be faithful to either "use it or loose it."

But have we always been faithful with God's word? Are we faithful in using it in our own life? Are we faithful in sharing it with our family, and our children? Of the servants entrusted with a

mina, there is the one who did nothing with it. Who took it and wrapped it up in a sweat cloth. Notice his attitude toward his king? He thought the king was too hard of a man, wanting to take the credit for other's work. All the while, the man sat by letting the other servants do the work—when the king returned this steward's treasure was taken away from him and he was most certainly rounded up with the other haters of the king and put to death.

Those words of Jesus are shocking, aren't they? *“Bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.”* This is the side of Jesus that we pray we never see. The side of Jesus who is filled with righteous anger toward those who reject and despise His sacrifice; those who reject His rule in their hearts. This is a righteous anger that burns against all who have murdered their own souls for eternal damnation; people who have murdered themselves through hatred of their King and neglecting His treasure—the Word. Even worse, they are guilty for the murder of every soul that they have kept away from God's treasure: husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and even their own children. Jesus' anger will burn against all such people in an unquenchable eternal fire.

You, however, will never see this side of Jesus, because His saving Word is at work in your life. It is “living and active.” It is powerful. The Word of God carries the very message of salvation: that you are saved through Jesus Christ, that your sins are forgiven—“it is the power of God for the salvation of all who would believe” (Rom. 1:16). The Holy Spirit uses this treasure to work and sustain faith in your heart; He uses it to build up your trust in Jesus as your Savior. You are safe from God's righteous anger; protected forever under the shadow of Jesus' almighty wing.

Today is a new day. Let us use God's Word while you have time. Put your treasure to work with yourself. Cherish and use God's Word in your life at home. Use and share it with your family; come together at the end of the day around God's Word and hear Him speak to you. Come together here in worship to cherish it and help share it. Here is the amazing thing about God's Word: it does all the work! Each faithful servant gave the credit of the mina's productivity to the mina itself—they said, “Your mina has earned five more... ten more!” Dear Christians, we simply use the Word, put it to work, and as God promises “it will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish the purpose for which it was sent” (Isaiah 55:11). That purpose has been accomplished here today—it has accomplished the salvation of your souls. Amen.