

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

The Parable of the Ten Minas

¹¹ While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. ¹² He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’

¹⁴ “But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

¹⁵ “He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

¹⁶ “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’

¹⁷ “ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

¹⁸ “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’

¹⁹ “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

²⁰ “Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹ I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’

²² “His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’

²⁴ “Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’

²⁵ “ ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’

²⁶ “He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. ²⁷ But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”

Luke 19:1-27

1. Who are the despised and disrespected people in our society today?
2. What do we know about tax collectors in Israel in Jesus' day? Why were they so especially disliked?
3. Why did the people begin to mutter among themselves? (19:7)
4. How does a person's reputation affect our opinion of him or her? Are you inclined to share your faith with someone who you do not respect?
5. Do we have a responsibility to help someone with a bad reputation? How about a totally immoral person? An evil person?
6. Zacchaeus' faith resulted in action (19:8). Has your faith resulted in action? How? Isn't just having faith in Jesus enough? (James 2:14, 2:26)
7. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the ten minas (or ten servants)? (19:11)
[This is a similar, but not the same parable of the ten talents in Matthew 25:14-30.]
8. Verse 19:14 seems a bit odd until we know the players in this parable. Who is the "man of noble birth" (later called "the master")? Who are the servants? Who are the subjects (citizens, people, countrymen)?
9. Perhaps more than some others, this parable *directly applies* to us today. Why?
10. What does this parable teach us about stewardship?
11. Why is the master so hard on the man who did not use his mina to earn more? (A) he didn't share his master's interest in the kingdom, (B) he didn't trust his master's intentions, (C) his only concern was for himself, (D) he did nothing productive with the money?
12. What can we learn from this story about neglecting to obey the truth that we already know? What can you expect from the Lord if you use the resources he has given to you for his glory?
13. What can you do when you leave here to remind yourself of the resources *and* responsibilities that God has entrusted to you?