**Money Matters: Prospering in Difficult Times**

**Make The Most of What You Have - Part 3**

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Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

**Sermon Description**

If I told you that your future in eternity was directly related to the way in which you handle money on the earth, would you believe me? Would you believe Jesus? In fact, Jesus illustrates the point with a parable on wealth as its context. He describes the Kingdom of God and how rewards and consequences would be administered in the future.

**The Prosperity Gospel**

**Central Truth**

*Your future ability to rule and reign with Christ is directly tied to how you handle money on the earth.*

The Lord has entrusted you with a certain level of finances, this means that your wealth has an assignment attached to it.

* Occupy until I come
* Do business until I return
* Transact
* Make the most of what you have
* Be faithful with what you have been given.

IDENTITY

*Know who you are in Christ*

* Identity is revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.

ASSIGNMENT

*Good works – know what you are called to do*

* And there is an assignment on your life
* FINANCES: When all the resources in my life are to be used to build the Kingdom of God.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

* Recognize that resources have been provided to you to accomplish your assignment
* For example, Joseph and Mary knew who they were, they received revelation from God, Holy Spirit (who is God), and angels:
* They understood that their assignment was to take care of the Saviour of the world who would be born and entrusted to their care
* They were given resources to accomplish their assignment (i.e., they were given money by the Maji to flee to Egypt and even for the burial of Christ – it has been said, “Where God guides, He provides”.

**Main Points**

If we are going to *make the most of what we have*, if we are going to be found good, faithful, and trustworthy Kingdom builders, then consider the following principles:

1. **Kingdom builders are fruitful, and they multiply**
2. **MULTIPLY:** Increase exceedingly, become great, numerous, enlarge, become much

* A trustworthy servant understands that God’s expectation is to multiply everything that they have been entrusted with
* The mantra: *What can I grow?*
* The first command of the Bible:

**Genesis 1:28**

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1. **OCCUPY:** The idea and concept that we are going to be traders

TRANSACT:

* We are going to buy and sell
* We are going to interact with what God has given us
* We are going to do business
* We are going to operate on His behalf
* To those that use well what they have more will be given to them
* Everything in God is designed to grow.

**OCCUPY** (πραγματεύσασθε). The word *occupy* has lost the sense which it conveyed to the makers of the A. V[[1]](#footnote-1).—that of *using* or *laying out what is possessed*. An *occupier* formerly meant *a trader. Occupy*, in the sense of *to use*, occurs Judges 16:11: “new ropes that never were *occupied;*” which Rev[[2]](#footnote-2). changes to *wherewith no work hath been done*. Compare the Prayer-Book version of the Psalter, Ps. 107:23: “*occupy* their business in great waters.” So Latimer, “Sermons,” “He that *occupieth* usury.” Rev[[3]](#footnote-3)., *trade ye*. Wyc[[4]](#footnote-4)., *merchandise ye*. Tynd[[5]](#footnote-5)., *buy and sell*. See on *traded*, Matt. 25:16.[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. **WARNING!**

* **Do not trust in riches –** Do not get arrogant or proud

**1Timothy 6:17**

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

1. **Kingdom builders recognize finances have an assignment**
   1. Paul told the Ephesians that we are called to good works

**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

* God empowers people to do good works.
  1. The mantra – *What am I called to do?*
* Understand that your finances have an assignment.
  1. *“Faithfulness overrides quantity – it is not how much you have been given, but rather that you are faithful with what you have been given”*
* A trustworthy servant is not so much concerned by the quantity that has been entrusted to them, but rather to be faithful with whatever they have been assigned
* A trustworthy servant understands that if they are faithful with little, more will be given to them
* This is the principle that we operate in today if you do a good job:
* People will recommend you
* You will be given more
* You will be promoted
* Your reputation will precede you
* “Nothing should be attempted outside of the grace of God”
* Live by the rhythms of grace

Illustration:

* I am so impressed with people that invest in the education of their kids – unwilling to be stained by the province mandates
* Coats donation for food hub
* $2,000 donation for thanksgiving.

1. **Kingdom builders live a life of precision** 
   1. *Jesus lived a life of precision. It was not by chance, or half hearted, it was intentional, it was focused, it was on time*

* *“When we are sensitive to the Spirit, it creates a heightened sense of awareness in our lives”*
  1. The Mantra – *Where can I make an impact?*
  2. PRECISION – The act of being exact and accurate
* Five keys to living a life of precision:
  + - 1. IDENTITY – Know who you are
      2. TIMING – Awareness of seasons
      3. GRACE – Live by the rhythms of grace in your life
      4. DILIGENCE – Work hard and accomplish everything with excellence
      5. WISDOM – Reliance on the accurate application of the knowledge and understanding of the Lord.
  1. Leadership secret - The secret source of my life has been, hearing and living by:
* The word of the Lord
* Depending on the grace of God
* Leading by vision instead of leading only by skill.
  1. Finances have eternal implications – the way that finances are utilized will impact your eternity: BE FAITHFUL with what you have
* Operate by the principle of rewards and consequences
* The reward of being a trustworthy servant is the ability to govern in the future (leadership over cities)
* The lazy and the wasteful will lose what little they have.
  1. *“If we are only successful in this life, we are the most miserable of people”.*
  2. Accountability – allowing wise people to speak into your life.
  3. Illustration: In the fullness of time Christ came to the earth.

**Quotes**

*“Partial obedience is not obedience” ~Unknown*

*“Perhaps, if we were more concerned with the concept of “occupy” rather than the idea of “take off” we would not be in this mess”. ~Dr. Tony Soldano*

**The Parable of the Ten Minas**

**Luke 19:11-27**

**11**As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. **12**He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. **13**Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ **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, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. **16**The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ **17**And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant![[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+19%3A11-27&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25739c)] Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ **18**And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ **19**And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ **20**Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; **21**for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’

**22**He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? **23**Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and 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 the one who has the ten minas.’ **25**And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ **26**‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **27**But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Lk 19:11–27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

**Thoughts Regarding the Passage**

* The parable is really about the test of faithfulness
* Christ uses money to correct misconceptions about the Kingdom of God and its planned arrival
* Unlike the parable of the talents, this amount of money was actually very small, but the reward was great
* The reward was leadership and oversight of cities
* This parable has end time implications
* The test – will the servants be faithful with the little that was given to them
* Ten is the number of testing.

**Definition**

POUNDS (ΜΝᾶΣ) *MINAS*. Between sixteen and eighteen dollars apiece. Meyer very aptly remarks: “The small sum astonishes us. Compare, on the other hand, the talents (Matt. 25). But in Matthew, the Lord transfers to his servant his *whole property;* here he has only devoted a definite sum of money to the purpose of putting his servants to the proof there-with; and the smallness of the amount corresponds to what is so carefully emphasized in our parable, viz., the relation of faithfulness *in the least* to its great recompense (ver. 17); which relation is less regarded in the parable in Matthew” (“Commentary on Luke”).

**Group Discussion & Questions**

1. Make a list of the top things that have been entrusted to you by the Lord, consider areas such as: personal, professional, and relational.
2. How are you living life in precision? Give three examples.
3. Describe how you are aware of the season and timing you are living in Christ.
4. What assignment has God given to your finances for the Kingdom?
5. Describe and define the term “occupy”. Is this still relatable to our day and age?
6. How can you be faithful with little? Give five practical examples.
7. Why did Jesus use a parable about a small amount of money and leadership over cities? How is this connected?
8. Discuss the relationship of “least” and “faithfulness”. List three things that the Lord is looking for.
9. Do you consider yourself a “Kingdom builder”? Why or why not?

1. A. V. Authorized Version. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Rev. Revised Version of the New Testament. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rev. Revised Version of the New Testament. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Wyc. Wycliffe’s Version of the New Testament. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Tynd. Tyndale’s Version of the New Testament. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/vincents?ref=Bible.Lk19.13&off=466&ctx=every+sort+of+work.%0a~Pounds+(%CE%BC%CE%BD%CE%B1%CD%82%CF%82)+Minas) (Vol. 1, p. 410). New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)