

# CAPITOL STUDIES

APRIL 8, 2026 • WEEK 13



## LUKE FOR LEGISLATORS SECOND SESSION

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### *Theme Verse*

#### Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to **save** that which was **lost**.



## Parable of Investment



**P**AUL SAYS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 that “it is required of stewards, that one be found faithful.” Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy’s, was a committed Christian who openly credited his faith in Jesus Christ as a guiding force in his life. His personal trust in Jesus led to a life of daily prayer. He emphasized honesty, integrity, and faith-based values in both his everyday life and business. His book *Well Done!* is a motivational book where he shares these values with his readers. “Well Done!” was the commendation he gave to his employees who had an MBA. A Mop Bucket Attitude is a servant leadership style where everyone, regardless of position, is willing to perform basic, necessary tasks like cleaning. This philosophy emphasizes humility, hard work, and the belief that no job is beneath any employee.

“Well Done!” is also the commendation that Jesus gives to each of His servants who give their best in faithful service to Him. Let’s look at that in Jesus’ parable of investment found in Luke 19.

*Arin Hess*

Pastor Arin Hess  
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## INTRODUCTION

*Luke 19:11*

*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.<sup>1</sup>*

Jesus and His disciples were traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem for the Passover. This was the day before the Triumphal Entry, when He would be hailed as the Messiah/King who thousands thought would overthrow Rome and usher in a new, glorious kingdom. Jesus knew this erroneous view would cause people to just wait instead of carrying out His work, so He told them the following parable.

### I. FAITHFULNESS DEMANDED

*Luke 19:12*

*So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return.”*

In ancient times, it was common for “kingdoms” to be received as a favor or reward for political friendship. But one might have to travel to a capital city, like Rome, to request “official” authorization from the Senate. This had recently happened with Herod the Great (40 BC) and also his son Archelaus (1 BC). The nobleman in this story, however, was Jesus. His journey to a “distant country” (death on the cross) would give Him authority to rule this kingdom. But His Kingdom would not be set up right away. It would be a while before He would return.

*Luke 19:13*

*And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, “Do business with this until I come back.”*

Before the nobleman left, he divided the administration of His estate among ten of his servants. Each was entrusted with the same amount, a mina, to invest. A mina was approximately three months’ salary for a laborer.

This parable is different from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. There, the talents represent abilities which vary from person to person. Here, the minas are like a deposit given to every believer—the Gospel. Each of Jesus’ followers has the same command: “[I]nvest the investment Christ has made in us! ...[M]ultiply our spiritual capital—invest the Gospel—increase the yield of the good news of salvation through Christ! This is not a matter of gifts but of investment.”<sup>2</sup>

*Luke 19:14*

*But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, “We do not want this man to reign over us.”*

Delegations would travel to the capital to voice support of the “king to be” or to express opposition, as was the case with Archelaus and also with the nobleman in this parable. Jesus knew that, in a few days, those crying for Him to be King would be saying, “We have no king but



Caesar!” It would not be easy for His followers to “invest” in His Kingdom. Jesus was trying to prepare them for a hostile world.

## II. FAITHFULNESS DISPLAYED

*Luke 19:15-19*

*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. <sup>16</sup>The first appeared, saying, “Master, your mina has made ten minas more.” <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>The second came, saying, “Your mina, master, has made five minas.” <sup>19</sup>And he said to him also, “And you are to be over five cities.”*

When the nobleman returned, he asked for an accounting of each servant’s mina. The first servant had a 1,000% increase on his one mina. The second servant had a 500% increase. These servants did not know when, or if, their master would return, but they were faithful. Both of them gave credit to their master, with the words, “Your mina, master, has made....” The nobleman responds with, “Well done, good servant! Your faithfulness in seemingly ‘a very little thing’ tells me I can trust you to rule well over many cities in my kingdom.”

“The reward for faithful work is always—more work! But what a compliment to be entrusted with the management of so many cities! How we serve the Lord today will help determine our reward and ministry when He comes to establish His kingdom on earth. Faithfulness now is preparation for blessed service then.”<sup>3</sup>

## III. FAITHFULNESS DISDAINED

*Luke 19:20-21*

*Another came, saying, “Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; <sup>21</sup>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.”*

The third servant returned his original mina, blaming his lack of investment on his master. “He said, in effect, ‘If I make money, you will take it; if I lose money, you’ll punish me. Therefore, I played it safe so you can do neither.’”<sup>4</sup> This servant did not have an accurate view of his master. He did not trust his master’s goodness or his generosity. He had not really come to know his master. “Nothing twists and deforms the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God.”—A.W. Tozer.<sup>5</sup>

“This sorry Christian slanders God in his heart and hoards what he has received from Christ. He carefully folds it in a cloth and stores it away. He thinks, ‘I can’t be active, but I can at least be a conservative. I can preserve the Christian tradition. I can submit to a church wedding and send my children to Sunday school. I can take a Christian point of view. I can wrap my religion in my handkerchief and conserve it.’”<sup>6</sup>





## IV. UNFAITHFULNESS JUDGED

*Luke 19:22-23*

*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? <sup>23</sup>Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?”*

The nobleman used the third servant’s own words as he pronounced judgement. “If you really thought that I was a rigid man demanding what others sow, you could, at least, have put my money in the bank where it would have earned interest without you doing a thing.”

*Luke 19:24-26*

*Then he said to the bystanders, “Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.” <sup>25</sup>And they said to him, “Master, he has ten minas already.” <sup>26</sup>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.*

“By transferring the unfaithful slave’s mina to the care of the most successful slave, the master proved that he cared less about fairness than about faithfulness. Be that as it may, the master *was* fair. None of the slaves ended up with less than when he started out. Even the worthless slave ended where he began; he started with nothing and he ended with nothing. In truth, all of the slaves stood no chance of losing and had been given every opportunity to gain personally by acting as faithful stewards.”<sup>7</sup>

“It is a basic principle of the Christian life that wasted opportunity means loss of reward *and possibly loss of the privilege of service*. If we do not use the gifts God gives us under His direction, why should we even have them?”<sup>8</sup>

## V. FAITHLESSNESS JUDGED

*Luke 19:27*

*But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.*

These enemies hated their “king” and rebelled against him. In regard to those who had rejected Jesus as King, Jesus told His disciples, “They hated Me without a cause” (John 15:25). Their judgment was coming! John tells of the frightening severity of the final judgment, which awaits all who reject Jesus as Savior and King (Revelation 14:9-11). But “God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:17).

During this time while Jesus is gone, He continues to call people everywhere to repentance and faith in Him as Savior and King. “Jesus, coming into the world, forces every person to decide—and the decision is a matter of life and death.”<sup>9</sup>



## CONCLUSION

In today's parable, the nobleman's servants "could give the money to investors and earn interest or purchase goods and sell them for a profit. The important thing was that they give back to their master more than he had given to them."<sup>10</sup> Every child of God has been given the same Gospel deposit. Regardless of our abilities, our circumstances, our wealth, if we invest it, we will receive rewards far beyond reason or measure.

"There was no failure on the part of the pound [mina]. Everyone who traded with it made some profit.... We have the Holy Spirit's word for it that God's Word "shall not return unto me void" (Isa. 55:11). The unfaithful servant's indictment was that he made no attempt to do anything at all with what had been entrusted to him."<sup>11</sup>

Are we investing in the ministry of the Gospel? Is our money being used to spread the Good News through evangelism or missions? What about our time? What does our calendar look like? We could all make large investments in prayer, but do we? What comes out of our mouths? Do our words testify of our Savior's working in our lives? Can others see Jesus in us?

The world may hate us and hate our message. We may be scorned for being faithful to share the truth of the Gospel. It may seem like what we are doing for the cause of Christ is all in vain. **But, dear believing friend, nothing is in vain when it is done for Jesus!!**

"We are living today in the period between Luke 19:14 and 15 when our Master is absent but will return according to His promise. We have been given a task to perform, and we must be faithful until He comes. What will the King say to us when He returns?"<sup>12</sup> **Will He say, "Well done, good, faithful servant!"?**

Chaplain Arin Hess

## FOOTNOTES

1. All Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, 1995 Update.

2, 6, 9. R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth*, Crossway Books, 1998, pg. 231-232, 234, 236.

3, 5, 8, 10, 12. Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Volume 1, Victor Books, 1996, pg. 253-254.

4, 7. Charles Swindoll, *Insights on Luke*, Zondervan, 2012, pg. 442.

11. John Phillips, *Exploring the Gospel of Luke: An Expository Commentary*, Kregel Publications, 2009.



## This Is My Word

*Pepper Choplin, 1999, GlorySound*

As the snow falls from Heaven, as it comes in swirling showers from the sky,  
So is My Word.

As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry,  
So is My Word.

And the Word of My mouth, it shall not return empty;  
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.  
This is My Word.

As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive,  
So is My Word.  
Giving seed to the sower, And the bread to the hungry 'til they thrive,  
So is My Word. So is My Word.

And the Word of My mouth, it shall not return empty;  
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.  
This is My Word. This is My Word.

O, Lord, when I am weary, When I feel the days I'm living are in vain,  
My God, help me be faithful to the Word You have given to proclaim.  
Proclaim the Word, Proclaim the Word, Proclaim the Word.  
And you will go out in joy, And be led forth in peace,  
And the hills will break before you into song.

So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you,  
And when your earthly journey here is done,  
I'll say, "Well done," I'll say, "Well done,"  
I'll say, "Well done," "Well Done!"

As the snow falls from Heaven,  
And the rain comes in showers from the sky,  
This is My Word.



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with Scripture*

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## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meeting during the  
109<sup>th</sup> Legislature's  
Second Session

### SENATORS

6:45 – 7:45 A.M.  
Wednesdays  
Capitol Office #1004

### STAFF

12:00 – 1:00 P.M.  
Wednesdays  
NE State Office Building  
Morrill Room