

Be Faithful—Allow the Lord to Reign Supreme

Scripture

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. Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.' "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. "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' "And he said to him, 'Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.' "Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. 'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' "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. 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give *it* to him who has ten minas.' (But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')

'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. 'But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay *them* before me.'" (Lu 19:11-27 NKJV)

Commentary

God is a loving Lord. He said, "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light." (Mt 11:28-30 NKJV) However, some see the Lord in a different light. Those who want Christ for their own purposes will often find His demands hard. His commandments will be burdensome. One of the servants in the passage above was such a person.

One servant gained ten minas and was blessed. The next gained only five minas, but he too was blessed. It was the unfaithful servant who was cursed. Amazingly it appears that had he only been thoughtful enough to put his mina in the bank to earn a little interest, he too would have been blessed. However, because he looked at His master's request with contempt he did nothing. He did not want to serve the Master.

The question is, "Do you see the Lord as a loving and compassionate Father or a harsh taskmaster? You will likely find the answer to that question by examining your desires. If your desire is to see the loving Lord that set you free from the bondage of sin and death, then you will realize a blessing. However, if you coward at His appearing, because you seek to use His church as a means to glory or gain for yourself, then you are like the servant who received a curse.

Take some time to meditate upon the Master today. Discover how kind and compassionate He is towards you. Think about the gifts He has given you, and purpose to be faithful.

