

Introduction (Luke 19:11-27)

Wednesday was April 15. Most of you immediately recognize the significance of April 15. We have to file our tax returns by April 15. We have to give account for what we earned, and we must settle our tax liabilities at that time. If we paid the right amount throughout the year, there should not be much money changing hands. If we underpaid our taxes, we have to pay additional taxes at that time. Individuals have to give account, and corporations must also give account. They say there are two certainties in life: taxes and death. I would altar that saying a little to incorporate what the Word of God teaches us. Hebrews tells us that “inasmuch as it is appointed for all men to die once, after this comes judgment.” All of us will face God and have to give account for our lives.

(Heb 9:27) “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,”

In Romans 14, Paul encouraged us not to judge our brother or regard him with contempt. Then, he says, “for we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, ‘as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Just as death and taxes are certain, so is judgment. We will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

(Romans 14:10-13) “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. {11} For it is written, “AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.” {12} So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

Many people, including Christians, do not like to give account. One day I sent an email out to people that had signed up to be Life Group leaders. In that email, I gave a lot of the benefits of small group ministry. But, I also shared some of the responsibilities of the leaders. Life Group leaders had to give account of their groups to the pastors. One couple got so upset about having to give account they left the church. The Bible teaches us that members are to “obey their leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.” Pastors will be required to give account to God for the members of their congregation. It is impossible for pastors to know what is going on in every family. But, Life Group leaders should know what is going on with the members of their small group. As they pass on needs and prayer requests, the pastors can pray over the specific needs of all the members. Pastors can give account for the flock because of the channels of communication between the Life Group leaders and the pastors. The Life Group leaders give account to the pastors. The pastors give account to God.

(Heb 13:17) “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

In that same verse, members are encouraged to make it easy for pastors to give account. It says, “let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” As Paul said in Romans, all of us will face the judgment seat of God and give account. The pastors are not the only ones that will give account. Church members will also have to give account.

Last year, when we covered Luke 9, we saw that after the Lord sent out the twelve apostles, they came back and gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Giving account for the ministries that we are entrusted with is a part of kingdom life. We should not be upset about giving account.

(Luke 9:10) “When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida.”

On the back of your bulletins this morning, there is a financial report for the first quarter of 2015. I appreciate Greg putting the report together and giving account to all of us of how we have handled our finances. It is important for us to know how much has come in, and how much has been spent. It is even more important to know how our money has been spent. You will notice that we put a lot of money into missions. We also help a lot of people out with financial needs that they have. Our benevolent ministry is a blessing to people when special needs come up. The main point is that we are very transparent. The Leadership Team gives account to the congregation, and they will also have to give account one day to the Lord.

Our passage today is about giving account. There are three groups of people that are mentioned in our passage today. There are servants who have been faithful with what God has entrusted to them and they give account to God. Then, there are servants who have been unfaithful with what God has entrusted to them, and they also have to give account. Finally, there are those who have rejected God’s rule in their life. They also have to give account. I have entitled the message, “How Will I Give Account?”

How will I give account?

1. Faithful servants
2. Unfaithful servant
3. Rebellious enemies

Before we start, let’s look at the context. In Luke 18, as Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man approached Him and Jesus healed him. When all the people saw that the blind man had been healed, they gave praise to God. Then, as Jesus entered Jericho in Luke 19, he comes across a tax collector named Zaccheus. Jesus told Zaccheus to hurry and come down from the tree that he had climbed and Jesus invited Himself to Zaccheus’ house. When the people saw that Jesus was going to Zaccheus’ house, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”

(Luke 18:43-19:7) “Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God... {19:6} And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. {7} When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”

Zaccheus stopped and exclaimed that he was going to give half of his possessions to the poor, and if he had defrauded anyone of anything, he was going to give back four times as much. Jesus answers by declaring that salvation has come to this house, and that Zaccheus is now a son of Abraham. Jesus was preaching salvation by faith to all of them. Zaccheus became a son of Abraham by faith, not by genealogical descent. Then, Jesus states His purpose for coming, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10) People rejoiced over the physical healing of a blind man, but they grumbled over the salvation of a sinner.

That is where our text begins today. It starts with, “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. It is about seventeen miles from Jericho to Jerusalem, so Jesus is somewhere between the two cities, but is nearing Jerusalem.

(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.”

Before we get into the heart of the message, I also want to give some historical context. When Jesus gave this parable, the people fully understood what He was talking about. In those days, under Roman rule, Caesar was the ultimate king and ruler. But, the Roman Empire was quite extensive and included many different cultures. Caesar allowed for subordinate kings to rule over specific geographic areas. These subordinate kings had to be approved and set in place by Caesar. These appointed kings were more familiar with the language, religion, and culture of the regions that they ruled over. The lineage of kings that ruled over Israel was Herod. The most notable of them was Herod the Great. He ruled in Israel from 40 B.C. until 4 B.C. Before he died, he made a plan to divide Israel into three parts and for each of his three sons to rule over a third of Israel.

The son who was appointed by Herod the Great to rule over Judea was Archelaus. He had built a palace in Jericho, where Jesus had just left. So, the people that Jesus is talking to are very familiar with Archelaus. When Archelaus took over, he tried to establish his power and authority, and he did it with fear and intimidation. At the first Passover, he slaughtered three thousand Jews. He did not endear himself to the Jews; in fact, they hated him.

When Archelaus and his two brothers went to Rome to be officially appointed by Caesar Augustus to rule in Judea, the Jews sent a delegation to Rome to appeal to Caesar not to make Archelaus king over them. Caesar heard the appeal by the Jews and decided to make Archelaus an ethnarc. He had authority to rule, but he could not take the title of King until he had earned the respect and favor of the Jewish people. Archelaus became king, even though he did not win the favor and respect of the people. Archelaus was deposed by Caesar Augustus in 6 AD, about twenty-four years before our account today. Even though Archelaus was no longer ruling, the people from Jericho and this area were very familiar with Archelaus and they could relate to what Jesus was talking about.

Our parable begins today with a nobleman going to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. The nobleman gave ten of his slaves ten minas and told them to do business while he was gone. The citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him saying, “we do not want this man to reign over us.”

(Luke 19:12-14) “So He said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. {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.' {14} 'But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'”

Open your Bibles to Luke 19:15 and let’s finish reading our passage today.

(Luke 19:15-27) “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. {16} "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' {17} "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.' {18} "The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' {19} "And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' {20} "Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; {21} 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.' {22} "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? {23} "Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' {24} "Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' {25} "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' {26} "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. {27} "But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.”

1. Faithful servants

Our parable begins with the nobleman giving ten of his slaves ten minas to conduct business while he was going away to receive his kingdom. Scholars say the value of a mina was about a hundred days wages. Let me put it in today’s wages. If you were paid a minimum wage today of \$10.00 an hour and you worked eight hours a day, that would place the value of a mina today about \$8,000.00. Each of the ten slaves received a mina to do business with until the nobleman returned.

Upon his return, the first servant said, “Master your mina has made ten minas more.” That is an excellent return on the investment. The servant was given about \$8,000.00 and he now has \$88,000.00. The master had to be very pleased.

(Luke 19:15-16) “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. {16} "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’”

Then, the master said, “Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.” The slave was given rulership over ten cities because he had been faithful with the money that had been entrusted to him.

(Luke 19:17) “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.’”

This is consistent with the teaching that Jesus gave earlier in Luke 16. He said that someone who is faithful with a very little thing will be faithful in much. **We must learn to be faithful in small things.** We must be faithful in picking up after ourselves. We must be faithful in reading our Bibles. We must be faithful in tithing, even when we are not making much. We must learn to be faithful in little things so that God can entrust us with bigger things. This slave had been faithful in a very little things.

(Luke 16:10-12) “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. {11} “Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? {12} “And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?”

Jesus also said that if we are not faithful with unrighteous wealth or mammon, who will entrust true riches to us. **We must learn to be faithful with our finances.** The first slave was faithful with the wealth that the master had given him. Therefore, the master put him in charge over cities.

Finally, Jesus said that **we must learn to be faithful with what belongs to others** before we are given things of our own. The first slave was faithful with what belonged to the master. Therefore, the master gave him five cities to be over.

The second slave was also faithful. He was given a mina and he made five additional minas. He turned his \$8,000.00 into \$48,000.00. That is a great return. The master commended him also and put him in charge of five cities in the kingdom.

(Luke 19:18-19) “The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' {19} “And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'”

2. Unfaithful servant

Next, we have the account of the unfaithful servant. He returned the master's mina, which he had put away in a handkerchief. He had hidden it away rather than invested it. He stated that he was afraid, because he thought the master to be an exacting man, taking up what he did not lay down or reaping what he had not sown.

(Luke 19:20-26) “Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; {21} 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.'

Notice the master's response. “By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave.” In the parable of the talents in Matthew, the master uses a little stronger language for the one who did not invest his talent. He said, “you wicked, lazy slave.” In no place in Scriptures is laziness spoken about in favorable terms.

(Luke 19:20a) “He said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave...’”

(Matt 25:26) “But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.’”

Christians are expected to work hard and be productive. Solomon wrote, “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” Paul wrote a similar thing to the Colossians. He said, “whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord.” We are to do our work with all our might, and we are to do it with our whole heart. We have to have our mind and our hearts on what we do. We can't just go through the motions. We must do our work as unto the Lord. It is the Lord that we are serving.

(Eccl 9:10) “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.”

(Col 3:23) “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,”

Then, the master rebuked them for not doing the bare minimum, putting the money in the bank and drawing some interest.” Today, the banks are paying one tenth of one percent interest, so it is pretty minimal. At that time, two percent was considered outrageous. So, there was probably minimum interest in those days, just like today.

(Luke 19:20b-23) “...Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? {23} 'Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’”

Next, the master tells the bystanders to take the mina away from the unfaithful servant and to give it to the one with ten minas. They responded by saying he already had ten minas. Jesus says 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.” Jesus rewards those who are faithful. **We can lose what we have when we are not faithful.**

(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.' {25} "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' {26} "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.”

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, the unfaithful slave that buried his talent was ordered to be thrown out into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. There are many that believe that this slave showed his unbelief by his actions. They believe that he represents many religious people today who are saved. They go to church and give the appearance of being believers, but they bear no fruit in their lives. In this parable, they are thrown into the same place as those who rejected the master from ruling over them.

(Matt 25:29-30) “For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. {30} "Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

3. **Rebellious enemies**

The last group of people that gave account were the ones that rejected the noble man from ruling over them. The noble man said, “but these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.” **The people who rejected the noble man’s reign over their life still had to give account and be judged.** The fact that they rejected the noble man did not exempt them from being judged. We find many people today want to reject the rule and reign of Jesus in their lives. Unfortunately, as Paul said, there will come a day when every knee will bow. We are all going to stand before God and give account. It will just not be very pleasant for them.

(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.”

4. Applications

I wanted to take some time this morning to discuss applications. We will look at finances, spiritual gifts, relationships, and time. I will also give four applications for businessmen to increase their minas that they have been given.

A. Finances

The first application that I want to talk about is what we are going to give account to God for. In the parable today, Jesus was talking about minas. He is talking about being faithful with our financial resources. **God is the owner of our finances; we are merely stewards that He has entrusted the resources to.** Many people treat their resources as if it was their own money. They do not see themselves as stewards, but owners. We are stewards, and we are managing the money that He has entrusted to us. When He returns, we are going to give account for how we have managed His money. How will you give account for the money that He has entrusted to you? He has told you to give tithes of all that He gives to you. A tithe is ten percent. Are you giving ten percent of every paycheck to Him? Are you doing what He has asked you to do with His money? Or, have you thought of better ways to spend the money that He has given to you to invest? Are the things that you invest in giving you eternal or temporal returns? We are encouraged to store up riches in heaven where thieves cannot break in, and where the moth cannot destroy. Where are you investing your treasures?

(Matt 6:19-20) “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. {20} "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;”

Since we are stewards of our finances, are you consuming all that God gives you, or are you living on less than you make and investing the rest of the money. Solomon said there is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up. Fools consume everything they bring in, but wise people live on less than they make and learn to save. God expects us to save, sow and invest our resources. **Learn to live on less than you earn.** God is expecting an increase from what He has entrusted to us? How will you give account?

(Pro 21:20) “There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.”

Let me talk to the businessmen and entrepreneurs for just a minute. If you are going to multiply and grow your business, here are four considerations. First, **recognize that it is God that gives the power to make wealth.** Ask God to give you power to make wealth. Ask Him to open your eyes for opportunities. Ask Him to give you the business savvy and wisdom to make wealth.

(Deut 8:18) “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

Second, ask God to bless and confirm the work of your hands. Don't be afraid to ask God to bless your business and your work. Moses prayed that very prayer in Psalm 90.

(Psalm 90:17) "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands."

In Psalm 67, the psalmist asks God to bless him and cause His face to shine upon him so that all the ends of the earth would fear Him. God wants to bless us so that He can channel the necessary resources into kingdom work. Ask God to bless and use those resources to invest in kingdom work. You have not because you ask not. Don't be afraid to ask God to bless your business and cause His face to shine upon you.

(Psa 67:1) "God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us— Selah."

Third, work hard in your business. Solomon said a dream comes through much effort. Therefore, work hard in your business. Work hard mentally and physically. Plan your work. Get wise counsel. Ask God for wisdom as you set goals. Ask God to give you wisdom as you make strategic plans to accomplish your goals. If you are going to grow one mina into eleven minas, you are going to need to work hard and work wisely.

(Eccl 5:3) "For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words."

Fourth, become skillful and knowledgeable in your line of work. Solomon said that a man who is skilled in his work will not stand before obscure men, but will stand before kings. I did a term paper in college on high school and college athletes. In it I discovered how few people make it in professional sports. Hundreds of thousands of young athletes want to play in the big leagues, but only a few hundred make it. Consequently, I have always encouraged young athletes to get their education. Even if they make it in the pros, they will not always play professionally. The average career for the NFL is only three years. What will the athlete do after those three years? What is it that helps someone make it to the top in their profession? This verse motivated me. I knew that if I became skillful and knowledgeable in my profession, I would play at the highest level. I would play on the PGA Tour, not the mini-tours. The principle applies in every line of work.

(Pro 22:29) "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men."

My father started his career as a mud engineer. When he was working in Houston for Magcobar, there was a salesman who had a terrible problem with stuttering. One would think that this would be an impossible handicap for a salesman. But, this particular salesman was the most sought after salesman, and he was extremely successful. What was it that made this salesman so successful? He was knowledgeable. He spent time with the lab engineers. He knew all the material specs and properties. He also spent time with the field engineers. He knew all the applications, and the operational procedures that were required in using the various products. He was the most knowledgeable mud salesman in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Therefore, drilling operators and contractors sought him out. They wanted him to be involved in their drilling operations. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men."

B. Spiritual Gifts

In addition to the clear applications about our finances, God has made us stewards of many things. For example, in 1 Peter 4, we are told that **each of us have received a special gift and we are to employ it in serving one another as good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

(1 Peter 4:10-11) “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. {11} Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

What are the spiritual gifts that He has given to you? Have you been exercising your gifts and developing your gifts? Are you a better teacher now than last year? Are you a better encourager now than last year? Are you leading more diligently this year than last year? Have you been investing your gifts into His kingdom? Have you been investing your gift in serving others? Are your spiritual gifts bearing fruit and bringing increase to the kingdom? Are your spiritual gifts bringing in ten-fold fruit, five-fold fruit, or have you buried your spiritual gifts? God wants every member of the body to be actively participating and serving in the body. How will you give account for the gifts, abilities, and talents that He has entrusted to you?

C. Relationships

I believe that I will have to give account for my relationships. In the introduction I mentioned that leaders must give account for the members of the church. I have to give account for each of you. That means that I must invest myself in your lives. I must pray for you. I must watch over you. I must feed you spiritually. I must be faithful in leading you. This is a stewardship that I have.

But, there are many other relationships that I am a steward of. My wife belongs to the Lord. I am a steward of my marriage relationship. I am going to give account one day for how I loved my wife. Did I cherish Karen? Did I nurture Karen? Did I lay my life down for Karen? Did I provide for Karen? Did I pray for Karen? Did I protect her? Did I live with Karen in an understanding manner? Did I grant her honor as a joint heir? Or, did I deal treacherously with my wife. In Malachi, God gave a strong rebuke to Israel because they were dealing treacherously with their wives. How will I give account for my relationship with Karen? How will you give account to God for how you treated your wife or husband?

We are encouraged to bring our children up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Our children belong to the Lord. They are gifts to us for a season, but ultimately they belong to the Lord. How will you give account for your children? Did you teach them the word of God? Did you pray for them? Did you provide for them? Did you nurture them and love them? How will you give account for your children?

In Matthew 25, when the Son of Man comes and separates the sheep from the goats, He speaks about relationships. He rewards or punishes for feeding the hungry. He rewards or punishes for giving the thirsty a drink. He rewards or punishes for how we treated strangers. He rewards or punishes for how we clothed the naked. He rewards or punishes for how we visited the sick or those in prison. All of

these involve relationships? How will I give account for these other relationships in my life? How will you give account for these relationships in your life?

(Matt 25:35-36) “For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; {36} naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.”

D. Time

All of us have been given twenty four hours in a day. In the same way that the noble man gave each person a mina, each of us have been given 1,440 minutes each day. Are you wisely redeeming the time? Moses prayed that he would use his time wisely. He prayed that he would learn to number his days so that he could present to God a heart of wisdom. Have you numbered your days? Are you planning your days and your time so that you can use it efficiently?

(Col 4:5 KJV) “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

(Psa 90:12) “So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”

Church, Jesus has gone back to receive the Kingdom. He is going to return and we will have to give account to the Lord when He comes. Are you ready? How are your investments going? Will your reward be ten cities? Will your reward be five cities? Will you get in with nothing, or will you be richly rewarded for your faithfulness in this life. Is the Lord going to say, “well done, thy good and faithful servant,” or is the Lord going to say, “you wicked and lazy slave.” What will the Lord’s attitude towards you be when you give account?

Conclusion

As we come to a close this morning, I want to address one more group that must give account. The last group included all those who rejected the noble man from ruling over them. The clear application here is that rejecting the Lordship of Jesus will not keep you from giving account and being judged later on. Those that reject Christ will not be rewarded. Instead, they will be judged and will spend eternity suffering in hell. That judgment is called the Great White Throne judgment. We read about it in Revelations 20.

(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.”

(Rev 20:11-15) “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. {12} And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. {14} Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. {15} And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

If anyone's name is not found written in the book of life, that person will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire. How do you have your name written into the book of life. That is fairly simple. You must receive Christ as your King. You must receive Him as your Lord. In John 5:24 we find that when we hear the Word and believe in Christ, we gain eternal life with God, and we do not come into judgment. We will all have to give account, but those who have believed and received Christ do not get judged and sent into the eternal lake of fire. They pass out of death into life. Believers are given rewards, based upon their faithfulness. Those who have rejected Christ face judgment.

(John 5:24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

This morning, if you would like to have your name added to the book of life, I am going to give an opportunity to receive Christ. The condition is simple. Paul tells us in Romans that we must confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead. We must believe that Jesus is the Lord and the Messiah. He died for our sins, was buried and crucified, and was raised from the dead. Second, we must receive Christ as our Lord by confessing Him as Lord. If you would like to do that this morning, I am going to invite you to come forward so we can pray with you.

(Rom 10:9-10) "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

This morning, if you have any other needs that you would like us to pray with you about, please come forward. We would love to pray and agree with you for whatever needs you may have.

This morning, if the Lord has spoken to you about using your gifts and abilities, and you would like to find out how you can begin serving the Lord at the East Mountain Vineyard, please see me or one of the other leaders after the service. We would love to discuss ways to faithfully use your gifts in this body.

Finally, if you are not a member of the church and would like to join this body of believers, please come forward and let me know. We would love to have you come and be a part of our body.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 19:11-27, Heb 9:27, Rom 14:10-13, Heb 13:17, Luke 9:10, 18:43-19:7)

1. Faithful servants (Luke 19:15-19)

- We must learn to be faithful in _____ . (Luke 16:10-12)
- We must learn to be faithful with our _____ .
- We must learn to be faithful with what belongs to _____ .

2. Unfaithful servant (Luke 19:20-26, Matt 25:26-30, Eccl 9:10, Col 3:23)

- We can lose what we have when we are _____ .

3. Rebellious enemies (Luke 19:27)

- The people who rejected the noble man's reign over their life still had to _____ and be judged.

4. Applications

A. Finances (Matt 6:19-20)

- God is the _____ of our finances; we are merely _____ that He has entrusted the resources to.
- Learn to live on _____ than you earn. (Pro 21:20)

For Entrepreneurs

1. Recognize that it is _____ that gives the power to make wealth. (Deut 8:18)
2. Ask God to _____ and _____ the work of your hands. (Psalm 90:17, 67:1)
3. Work _____ in your business. (Eccl 5:3)
4. Become _____ and knowledgeable in your line of work. (Pro 22:29)

B. Spiritual Gifts

- Each of us have received a special gift and we are to employ it in _____ one another as good stewards. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

C. Relationships (Matt 25:35-36)

D. Time (Col 4:5 KJV, Psa 90:12)

Conclusion (Luke 19:27, Rev 20:11-15, John 5:24, Rom 10:9-10)

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