

Luke 19:11-27

Jesus, in this parable, gives us a warning against being distracted and sidetracked from what is really important.

It is extremely easy to get distracted. It is easy to get sidetracked and wrapped up in everything but the main thing.

1. What is the main thing? What is the bullseye? Evangelism, discipling, and missions!
2. If we focus on that bullseye, everything else will fall into place.

But, it is so easy to get distracted:

1. Politics, the pursuit of prosperity, possessions, pleasure, and power.
2. Still others get wrapped up in church and even good spiritual things.
3. It is so easy to get distracted in a world of pressures, expectations, TV, internet, radio, cell phones, and such.
4. It is very easy to get distracted from the main thing.

Jesus, in this parable, gives us a warning against being distracted and sidetracked from what is really important.

Read/Pray

In this parable we are reminded of the clarity of our Lord's commission to us and some motivations for obeying and not getting sidetracked.

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.

1. Don't miss why He told this parable.
2. He told this parable because of their triumphant Messiah hope

12 So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return.

A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom

1. Rome had sub-rulers to rule conquered lands under Caesar.
2. Even the kingdom of Israel, like other kingdoms, would have sub-kings given the right and authority to rule under Rome (King Herod)
3. This nobleman is going to his authority to get the right to rule this kingdom. As he leaves, he gives his servants a commission.

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.'

The nobleman's commission to his servants is clear

1. He distributes 10 minas to 10 of his servants
2. One mina was about 3 months wages, so each servant has a mina and is commissioned to

engage in business.

3. There was no doubt what the nobleman expected...invest what I have given you and make a profit! This commission was clear!

Like the nobleman, Jesus has gone away to the Father to await the consummation of His Kingdom, and before He left, he gave His commission to His followers.

- a. Matt 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
- b. Mark 16:15 *Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*
- c. Luke 24:47 *repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*
- d. John 20:21 *As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you*
- e. Acts 1:6-8 *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Jesus gave his commission and he gave it loud and clear.

1. It is amazing how easily we push it off.
2. Imagine with me a war that is raging!
 - a. You see the front line of the biggest battle in the biggest war in history.
 - b. You also see around the perimeter that there are some smaller battles...they aren't in the eye of the storm, but they do seem worthy.
 - c. Now if you are uncomfortable on the front lines...maybe fearful to be in the midst of the biggest battle in this biggest war...maybe even a coward what will you do to keep from going completely awol?
 - d. What can you do to feel justified and satisfied that you are not retreating from the war...while at the same time avoiding the biggest battle in the war?
 - c. You can go fight along the perimeter. That can be your battle...your thing...hey, at least you are fighting right?
3. I am convinced that this may be why we are so easily sidetracked from the Great Commission.
 - a. If the Great commission is the bullseye...we could call it the frontlines of the main battle.
 - b. There are all kinds of other battles going on around us...good battles that center on things God cares about:
 1. government, which repeatedly challenges Christ's rule and reign
 2. gender confusion which is an assault on his design
 3. homosexuality which is an assault on marriage,
 4. adultery, fatherlessness, and divorce which is an assault on family
 5. Abortion which is an assault on an entire generation made in the image of God
 6. We even fight over masks and vaccinations...I could go on and on with the the number of battles raging out there on the battlefield...all good...all

- things God cares about...all battles, but these are not the main battle!
- c. The main battle is evangelism, discipling, and missions!
 - d. Now if I am uncomfortable...maybe fearful...maybe a coward when it comes to the frontlines...we can justify ourselves, and avoid going awol by consuming our time in one of these perimeter battles. This is MY thing.
 - e. That is how we get sidetracked.
4. I need to clarify this in case you misunderstand...and let me use the perimeter battle of abortion as an example.
 - a. You can be at the abortion clinic every day and NOT be on the frontlines...you can actually make that your thing in order to avoid the real heart of the battle: evangelism, discipling, and missions (this is what Jesus left us here to do!)
 - b. OR you can be at the abortion clinic every day and be right on the frontlines if your purpose for being there is first to proclaim the gospel, to evangelize those at that place
 - c. If we fight the real battle that Jesus left us to fight...the perimeter battles are affected...but if our efforts are focused on a perimeter battle, instead of helping advance the frontline in the real war...we end up doing more harm than good.

Some of you are doubtless thinking: It's not that I am fearful or sidetracked from the Great Commission...evangelism, discipling, and missions is just not my gifting.

1. Don't confuse this parable with the parable of the talents.
2. The parable of the talents placed the emphasis on the differing gifts and abilities of the Lord's servants because we do not all have the same talents, gifts, and abilities.
3. But in the parable of the minas, each servant received the same thing—one mina.
4. **They were commissioned to use their mina with all of their talents, abilities and gifts to turn a profit for their Lord!**
5. However different our skills, gifting, and abilities are, even our personal convictions and burdens...we all have the same commission: the same bullseye!
6. Let us be found faithful because we have been promised...and warned...that He is coming!

The nobleman, after giving his commission, went away with the promise that he would return.

1. He said, do business until I come back. Jesus did the same exact thing
2. *Acts 1:9-11* And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

There is coming a day, when the commission will come to an end, so how can we stay on the frontlines and avoid distraction? We must always remember 4 things...

1. There will be a Return v14-15

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, 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.

This nobleman returned. He said he would and he did.

1. He returned having received what he went after: his kingdom...in spite of the opposition
2. Like the nobleman in this parable, Jesus Christ will return and he will receive his kingdom.
3. The opposition will not stop his return, or the establishment of his kingdom.

4. Rev 11:15 *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever*

When the nobleman returned, he returned with authority and power.

1. He calls his slaves to Himself in order that he might know what business they had done.
2. They were held accountable for what was done in his absence, and we will be as well!

2 Cor 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

2. There will be a Reward v16-19

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.'

1. You will be rewarded for how you use your gifts to advance the Kingdom

2. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 *For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*

The picture the Bible gives of this judgment is one of individual believers presenting their lives' works to Christ in the form of buildings. The eternal foundation of each building is Christ, but the structures vary. Some are made totally of wood, hay, and straw; others are of gold, silver, and precious stones; still others are composite structures of all the elements in individual proportions. As the architecture of each life is presented, it is publicly subjected to the revealing torch of Christ's judgment, and with the flames comes the moment of truth. Kent Hughes

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire

1. The size and fame of one's work and personal prestige and importance mean nothing to Christ.
2. The hearts that produce the architecture are the ones that endure—gold, silver, and precious

stones.

3. **There will be Rejection** v20-25

20 Another came,

The Greek “another” means a different kind of person.

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.’

1. Since he viewed the nobleman as severe, harsh, and ungracious, he just hid his pound away.
2. He was completely justified in his mind! I would probably just blow it anyway.
3. But in reality, he disobeyed and disregarded his commission.

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.’

1. He was rejected, condemned by his own words
2. We know what the one thing Jesus has left us here to do is...and by our words we will be justified or condemned so...what do you talk about the most, post about the most, read about and study about the most?
3. Matt 12:36-37 *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

4. **There will be Retribution** v26-27

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. Those in verse 14 who did not want the nobleman to rule over them, were slaughtered...and why? Because they did not want him to rule over them.
2. My question is, how many of us do not want Christ ruling over us...telling us what to do with our lives, our time, our money, and where to fight our battles?
3. Christ can be your ruler, or your enemy, but he will not be both.
4. Psalm 25:1-2 *O LORD, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! (NLT)*

Conclusion: Do you want Christ to rule over you?

1. Oh yes, you say. Then go the frontlines and fight...and not necessarily as a pastor, evangelist, or missionary...but with the same goal! We all have the same commission.
2. Get busy doing the one thing He has left you hear to do
3. He’s waiting...and He is coming. Are you ready? GOSPEL