

## Context

- 1] ‘They’ (11a) - were Jewish pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for the Passover.
- 2] ‘These things’ (11b) were what Jesus said to Zacchaeus in Jericho – ‘salvation has come to this house ...the son of man came to seek and to save the lost. (19:9,10)
- 3] as crowd expected ‘the kingdom to come’ (11c); i.e. Jesus to be made king in Jerusalem, immediately.

*Cf Luke 17:20; Acts 1:6*

\*Jesus knew the nature of His end in Jerusalem\*

- 4] told this parable – ‘A nobleman going to a far country to receive a kingdom’ would remind the Jews of a vassal going to Rome to be made king. This had happened with Herod the Great’s son Archelaus. When Herod died in 4BC, he bequeathed Judea to him with the title of king. The people hated him and sent 50 representatives to Rome to ask that he *not* be made king. The emperor, while confirming his authority, did not give him the title of ‘king’

\*God speaks in response to human misunderstanding\*

???? 1] *what does a ‘mina’ represent*

*(parables are symbolic and thing a representative – e.g. the seed is the Word of God)*

2] *What is the distinction between servants (13) and citizens (14) – **which are you?***

## The story

- 1] Nobleman (12) = Jesus (nb God appears in every parable). Goes to a far country *i.e. not back for a long time (Rmn and back in a year?)*

*Cf All authority on heaven / earth given to me (Mt 28:18)*

*King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 17:14; 19:16)*

- 2] Departure (13,14)

a) servants (10) - a mina each (3 months wages) ‘do business’ i.e. “use it”!

*nb servants = His disciples?*

\*GRACE The Lord gives His servants ‘minas’\*

b) citizens – hated him – ‘we do not want this man to reign over us’

*nb Jews?*

*cf behold your king .... we have no king but Caesar (Lk 19:15)*

*He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him (Jn1:11)*

- 3] His return (15)

a) Called to account

*nb there is a day of judgement - theme of 1/2 parables (e.g. Matt 25:1ff) All before the throne (Rev 20:12) after death, judgement (Heb 9:27)*

*cf so each of us will give an account of himself to God (Rom14:12)*

\*Note – God will call us to account for what He has given us. \*

b) Faithful servants 1 mina –10, 5 – well done take authority over 10 / 5 cities

1) Addressed Jesus as 'LORD'

*Nb same word as used for The Lord - God (19:31,38)*

2) a test – reward vastly outweighs a labourer's wage for a year or two.

*E.g. kept your bedroom tidy now look after Glasgow!*

*\*The Lord's mina made i.e. it does the work\**

*\*Look for God's commendation. \**

c) Wicked servant

1) disobeyed the King (20) – didn't 'engage in business' (13)

2) slandered the King of being 'severe'

*nb severe = unfair, ungenerous and mean (21)*

*?!the King gave them 3 months wages up front!*

3) the king condemned by repeating own words

4) why not put money in the bank?

*I.e. no cost, no rest, minimal effort?*

5) take the mina give to He who has 10

*Nb protests - he already has 10.....!*

### **The point–judgement day comes when Jesus will be acknowledged King**

1] to **servants - used** His gift - more

*Nb their return is proportional but vastly more than they earn.*

2] to **servants - not used** His gift, even what they have will be taken away

*Nb they remain His servants but by 'the skin of their teeth'*

*Cf Paul speaking of judgement (1 Cor 3:10-15)*

a) *According to the Grace of God (10)*

b) *Fire will test the work each has done (13)*

c) *Gold silver – survives. Hay and straw - burnt. (people saved as only through fire)*

3] to citizens who hated him – 'slaughtered before him

*Nb They will be excluded – 'they reject the life that is the light of men' (Jn1:4)*

*Vengeance is mine. I will repay says the Lord (Rmns 12:19)*

*The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)*

*Cf Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing (Lk 23:34)?*

*\*God is just and final in judgement\**

? *mina = the grace of God (1 Cor 3:10) The light in Jesus (Jn 1:4)*

*Servants = disciples. Citizens = Israel*

### **Parable**

a) Where is God represented?

*Jesus is the nobleman who is made King*

b) With whom are we meant to identify?

*We are either servants (His disciples) or citizens (Israel)*

c) What is the subject?

*Attitudes to the coming rule of the King*

**Main Point** *Jesus, on His return, will reward (only) His servants according to their faithfulness*

**Key Verse** *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. (26)*

**Conclusion**

- 1] The Kingdom is not coming fully, soon
- 2] There is a different reception between His servants (disciples), and His citizens (Israel)
- 3] Judgement will follow His return
  - a) faithful service of the King will be rewarded
  - b) the rebellious will be slaughtered
- 4] Are you ready?