

Series: URGENT!

Text: Luke 19:11-27; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

Title: "The Master"

Introduction: WELCOME, BMZ! Glad you are with us TODAY as we CONTINUE our SERIES called: "URGENT"! SO, we BEGAN the YEAR with a REMINDER we EACH have a GREAT WORK to DO ... in 2022!

As we MOVE toward EASTER (April 17th), we are using LUKE'S ACCOUNT of the DAYS LEADING UP to the CRUCIFIXION. Jesus KNEW He only had LIMITED TIME LEFT with His Disciples / Followers and it SURE SEEMED LIKE He had some things to DO and SAY that were URGENT!

According to LUKE, way back in LUKE 9 (v.51), it says JESUS TURNED RESOLUTELY TOWARD JERUSALEM. JESUS KNEW He WHY He was GOING and WHAT was GOING to HAPPEN there. And JESUS went anyway. As Jesus gets CLOSER to JERUSALEM, you can ALMOST FEEL the TENSION BUILDING, and for Jesus, the TIME growing SHORT. **(MAP)**

As Jesus NEARS Jerusalem ... REMEMBER, many JEWS are going to JERUSALEM because of PASSOVER. This is an EMOTIONALLY CHARGED FESTIVAL ... remembering their DELIVERANCE from SLAVERY in EGYPT. Which also STIRS up the MISERY of their CURRENT LIVES in BONDAGE to ROME and WANTING for their DELIVERER / MESSIAH. There were SUBVERSIVE groups like the ZEALOTS (guerilla warfare) and the HERODIANS (political deviants) ATTEMPTING to take MATTERS into their OWN HANDS and MANIPULATE ROME, but MOST people wanted GOD to FULFILL the OT PROPHECIES and SEND their KING / Messiah / Savior.

PAUSE ... ***WHY was Jesus going to JERUSALEM? PURPOSE: To DIE on a CROSS to SAVE ALL people THROUGHOUT HISTORY from ETERNAL DEATH DUE to SIN. The WAGES of SIN is DEATH and JESUS was going to JERUSALEM to PAY the PRICE.***

BUT ... WHY did Jesus' FOLLOWERS THINK Jesus was GOING to JERUSALEM? Jesus TWELVE DISCIPLES and MANY OTHERS thought JESUS was going to Jerusalem to TAKE OVER POLITICALLY. They thought MESSIAH would be a MILITARY / POLITICAL LEADER who would SAVE the NATION from the ROMAN Empire and DEFEAT ALL their ENEMIES and BRING PEACE to the NATION of ISRAEL. The Messiah came from the LINE of DAVID ... KING DAVID. He MUST be COMING for the SAME PURPOSE as KING DAVID. He was the LAST GREAT KING of ISRAEL who DEFEATED their ENEMIES and BROUGHT PEACE to the NATION of ISRAEL... They were THINKING KINGDOM on EARTH ... 30-50 YEARS of PEACE and Prosperity. Something GOOD for their TEMPORARY LIVES. But that was NOT the PLAN!

As we CONTINUE in LUKE 19, Jesus ATTEMPTS again to EXPLAIN what was URGENT and IMPORTANT ... NOT JUST for the people LISTENING THAT DAY, but for ALL HUMANITY throughout HISTORY! So, Jesus DECLARES it's STORY TIME (a Parable) ... ***LUKE 19:11 = ¹¹ The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.¹***

Jesus was NEARING JERUSALEM and He MUST ATTEMPT to CORRECT the THOUGHTS of the PEOPLE ... the THOUGHTS that JESUS was TAKING OVER in JERUSALEM and establishing some sort of EARTHLY KINGDOM. Do you know WHY they were THINKING THIS? Because they were THINKING like HUMANS. And God ASKS us to ALLOW Him to TRANSFORM US by CHANGING the WAY we THINK (Romans 12:2)!

So, JESUS TRIES ... He TELLS a STORY to EXPLAIN that The KINGDOM would NOT come until a FUTURE TIME ... BUT, that His SERVANTS (that's FOLLOWERS of JESUS / BELIEVERS) BETTER be FAITHFUL NOW to DO the JOB ASSIGNED THEM. Here we GO ... LUKE 19:12-15 = ¹² *He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. ¹³ Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.' ¹⁴ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.' ¹⁵ "After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were."*²

Then, Jesus SHOWS us THREE DIFFERENT Responses to the Master...

THREE RESPONSES TO JESUS, THE MASTER:

Each SERVANT received the SAME AMOUNT from the MASTER, EQUAL to THREE MONTHS WAGES for a LABORER (1 Minas). Think about the BUYING POWER of 3 MONTHS WAGES TODAY. And the MASTER tells them to INVEST IT while HE'S GONE for a WHILE. IOW – PUT my MONEY to WORK ... HOWEVER the SERVANTS wanted to, but the RESULT SHOULD BE there is MORE when the MASTER RETURNS!

Now, we are ONLY given the RESULTS / PROFIT of THREE of the TEN Servants and the FIRST TWO are SUCCESSFUL... They were FAITHFUL to the MASTER.

#1 = FAITHFUL Obedience

Now, BEFORE we get to those FIRST TWO SERVANTS, we need to acknowledge there is a SIMILAR PARABLE in MATTHEW 25 ... The Parable of the TALENTS. It's SIMILAR, but the LESSONS are DIFFERENT, and we need to be CLEAR. In THIS Parable, the SERVANTS each received the SAME AMOUNT, with DIFFERENT REWARDS. In the Parable of the TALENTS (Matt), the SERVANTS received DIFFERENT AMOUNTS, but the SAME REWARD. Parable of the TALENTS = GOD gives DIFFERENT GIFTS (10-5-1) to different PEOPLE to be used to SERVE the KINGDOM. We ALL have DIFFERENT abilities, but ALL are to USE what GOD GIVES THEM to the BEST of their ABILITY ... be FAITHFUL and you will receive the SAME REWARD REGARDLESS of your ABILITY.

But, in THIS Parable (The Parable of the Pounds), JESUS says EACH SERVANT receives the SAME AMOUNT (10 Pounds of Silver) ... which REPRESENTS the GOSPEL ... The GOOD NEWS. Our GIFTS and ABILITIES are DIFFERENT, but our JOB is the SAME! Share the GOOD NEWS of JESUS so it MULTIPLIES and FILLS the WORLD (Matt 28:19-20).

LUKE 19:16-17 = ¹⁶ *The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!' ¹⁷ "Well done!" the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'*³

So, the GOOD NEWS is SPREAD. When you SPREAD the GOOD NEWS, God gives you MORE OPPORTUNITIES (Cities) to CONTINUE to SPREAD the GOOD NEWS. What an HONOR! Are we FAITHFUL with GOD'S CALL for us to GO INTO ALL the WORLD and MAKE Disciples?

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:12-15). Tyndale House Publishers.
³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:16-17). Tyndale House Publishers.

Paul REMINDS says we are MADE to PLEASE GOD ... 1 THESSALONIANS 2:4 =
*⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.*⁴ HOW do we PLEASE GOD? By being MESSENGERS of the GOOD NEWS!

Did you CATCH what JESUS just TAUGHT US? HOW we SERVE the Lord TODAY will help DETERMINE HOW we will be REWARDED when JESUS COMES and ESTABLISHES His KINGDOM on EARTH! Faithful NOW = Blessings THEN!

Let's press on in JESUS STORY ... LUKE 19:20-23 = ²⁰ *"But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, 'Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. ²¹ I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant. ²² "You wicked servant!' the king roared. 'Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I'm a hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant, ²³ why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'*⁵

Jesus tells us AT LEAST ONE of the TEN Servants did NOT OBEY the Master and INCREASE his POUND. Therefore, that SERVANT lost EVEN the POUND given him.

#2 = UNFAITHFUL Disobedience

^{2nd} RESPONSE to the MASTER ... He was DISOBEDIENT to the MASTER who DEMANDED he INCREASE what was GIVEN HIM. He was UNFAITHFUL to the MASTER in his WORK. This is a BASIC PRINCIPLE of the LIFE of a BELIEVER: Wasted OPPORTUNITIES result in LOSS of REWARD and possibly FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES.

IF GOD can NOT TRUST US to USE the GIFTS He GIVES, WHY should we even HAVE THEM? This MASTER in Jesus' PARABLE gave the OPPORTUNITIES to ONE He KNEW He could TRUST ... LUKE 19:24-26 = ²⁴ *"Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.'*²⁵ *"But, master,' they said, 'he already has ten pounds!'*²⁶ *"Yes,' the king replied, 'and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.'*⁶

We talk about this OFTEN ... If we are NOT GROWING in our FAITH, we are DYING, right? IF we are NOT GROWING in our FAITHFULNESS, we BECOME LESS FAITHFUL.

WHY was this SERVANT (and US) UNFAITHFUL? Because his HEART was NOT RIGHT with his MASTER! He saw his MASTER as a HARD MAN who was DEMANDING and UNFAIR ... Ever think about how NON-BELIEVERS PERCEIVE JESUS?

Remember that thing about HOW GOD wants to TRANSFORM US by CHANGING the WAY we THINK? Listen to JESUS ... LUKE 8:18 = ¹⁸ *"So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."*⁷

I WONDER how many people COME into WORSHIP thinking they KNOW EVERYTHING and/or do NOT THINK they NEED to LEARN MORE and HARDLY LISTEN to GOD'S WORD. JESUS just ADDRESSED THOSE PEOPLE!

I admit, I'M TORN. I THINK it's SAD when CHRISTIANS are MOTIVATED by a SLAVISH FEAR to DO MORE for the LORD and TRY to EARN God's APPROVAL and NEVER have a RELATIONSHIP w/ JESUS. I THINK it's EQUALLY SAD when

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Th 2:4). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:20-23). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:24-26). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 8:18). Tyndale House Publishers.

CHRISTIANS are **INCREDIBLY APATHETIC / INDIFFERENT / UNCONCERNED / UNINTERESTED**, about their FAITH. They REFUSE to ENGAGE it FULLY by FULLY SURRENDERING to JESUS. Paul ... **EPHESIANS 6:6b = *As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart.***⁸ IF you CONTINUE to HANG ON to your RIGHT to YOURSELF and your “INDEPENDENCE”, you will NEVER SURRENDER your RIGHTS; NEVER become a SLAVE of CHRIST, and DO the WILL of your HEAVENLY FATHER.

Did you CATCH what JESUS is CALLING HIMSELF in this PARABLE? Right ... **“MASTER”**. HE GETS to BE LORD! JESUS (disturbing)... SERMON on the MOUNT (Matt 7) ...²¹ ***“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”***⁹

The WILL of Jesus’ FATHER in HEAVEN? SURRENDER to HIM! Paul would say, ***“It’s as a SLAVE of JESUS the MESSIAH, The SON of the LIVING GOD you DO His WILL!”***

Now, there is ONE MORE GROUP JESUS ADDRESSES in this Parable of the Pounds ... and it’s the CROWD of PEOPLE. **Luke 19:14 = *“But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’”***

#3 = Outright REBELLION

The FINAL RESPONSE to JESUS as MASTER? Outright Rebellion. REMEMBER WHO is TELLING the STORY? Jesus. He is NEARING Jerusalem. IN a FEW DAYS, Jesus KNOWS He will HEAR (John 19:15) a MOB of PEOPLE SHOUTING, ***“WE have NO KING but CAESAR!”*** Like ... We do NOT WANT HIM to BE our KING!

Ok. RECAP. FAITHFUL SERVANTS OBEYED because they TRUSTED their MASTER. The UNFAITHFUL SERVANT DISOBEYED because he did NOT TRUST his MASTER. But these CITIZENS / crowd REBELLED because they HATED their KING. And ACCORDING to JESUS, there will be CONSEQUENCES to SUCH a RESPONSE to JESUS ... **LUKE 19:27 = *“And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.”***¹⁰

I wonder HOW MANY WAYS we SHOW JESUS we do NOT WANT HIM to be our KING / LORD? I wonder HOW MANY TIMES we want JESUS to BE WHO WE THINK He SHOULD BE instead of ACCEPTING HIM and FOLLOWING HIM for WHO He IS?

Today, in 2022, we are LIVING between LUKE 19 verses 14 and 15. The NOBLEMAN has LEFT (v.14) and we have TIME to DECIDE HOW we will RESPOND BEFORE He RETURNS. In Verse 15, the MASTER RETURNS as KING.

I hope and PRAY we will DESIRE to be FAITHFUL ... **1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 = *“Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.”***¹¹ It’s an URGENT MATTER!

I want JESUS to be ABLE to COUNT on ME to SHARE the GOOD NEWS of GRACE / FORGIVENESS / UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ... of a CROSS! I want to HEAR Jesus say, ***“Well done, my GOOD and FAITHFUL Servant.”*** How about YOU?

Let’s Pray!

Next Steps: *I will Memorize 1st Thessalonians 2:4*
I will Read Luke 19 and Ephesians 6
I will Invite someone to worship with me as a messenger of the Good News

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Eph 6:6). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 7:21). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹⁰ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:27). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Co 4:2). Tyndale House Publishers.

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is **HIT "SEND"** your COMPLETED Connection Card

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As our ushers GET READY to come forward

- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... 1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 = ² *Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.*¹²
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the 1st place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- Next Week: **The KING of PEACE ARRIVES!**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."
Special thanks to Andy Stanley, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Peggam for outlines and ideas for this worship series.

¹² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Co 4:2). Tyndale House Publishers.