

Luke 19:12-13

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.'

In today's verse, this is Jesus telling the Parable about the Minas, and how the master gave ten servants, each one mina to invest while he was gone.

† ***"So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas"***

And when the master came back he asked each servant how much they got back by investing it. One said that he got ten minas back and another said he got five minas back, therefore the, master had commended each one and gave them each cities to rule over based upon their return.

† ***Luke 19:16-19 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.'***

But one of them said he did not invest the mina, but rather hid it, and when the master returned, he gave him the one mina that he was supposed to invest, back to the master.

† ***Luke 19:20 Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.'***

The master was not happy with this, and instead of getting one city to rule over, the mina that was given to him was taken away.

† ***Luke 19:23-24 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 there are two things I want us to take away from this parable. First, the other nine did not tell the one who did nothing how bad he was doing with what the master gave him. No, because the master gave to each one to invest themselves, and each one had the same instructions and were responsible for what was given to them, which was an equal amount to invest.

Yet how many in the church are so quick to judge others with what the Lord has given them, and some do it so much, that they end up doing nothing, because they spend so much time judging what others are doing and wanting to tell them what to do with what the Lord had given them.

But, did you ever notice that the master never rebuked the other nine for not telling the one what to do with what he had given him? He didn't need to, because once again, they all had the same instructions from the master, just like we all have the same instructions to invest into the kingdom of God.

Second, the one who got five minas back by investing, did not complain because he didn't get ten minas like one of the other guys, instead, he was content, knowing that he did what the master had told him to do. You see, it wasn't the amount that the master was pleased with, but rather, that the servant did what he was told to do with the mina. We know this because the master never said to the one who got five minas back after investing, "How come you didn't get ten minas back like the other guy did?" No, the master was pleased that the servant was obedient to his instruction, which was to invest. Also the master never said how much of a return each one should get back.

The Lord has given each of us a mina, so to speak, to invest in the Kingdom, and that mina is not always money, but your gift from the Holy Spirit to use in the church or to minister to others outside of the church. It's also sharing your testimony that the Lord has given to you by saving you. The Lord is not looking for quantity, but rather simply being obedient with what we are given to invest into the Kingdom of God, and the Lord will give the increase when we invest into His Kingdom.

Paul wrote; ***"So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."*** 1 Corinthians 3:7 so any increase we get is what the Lord give us, but the key is, you must do something to see an increase. Be it being a pastor of a mega church with ten thousand people, or doing a small home group bible study with ten people, or even five. The Lord will not rebuke you for not having ten thousand people in your home bible study, but He will rebuke you if He has given you the gift of teaching, and you are doing nothing with it, except for yourself only.

Or maybe its something as simple as you are real good at cutting the grass with a lawnmower, and your grass in front of your house looks great, but the grass at the church is overgrown. You have been given the ability to mow the lawn in a good way, but you never use it for God's house, just your own. There are so many other things, and you know what that mina is that the Lord has given you to invest, the question is, are you using it to invest in the Kingdom of God, or are you keeping everything the Lord has given you to yourself?

It's the same with any ministry the Lord has given to each one, so we should stop looking for numbers, or comparing our ministries to others, or telling other what to do with what the Lord has given them, and simply be obedient with what the Lord has given us to do, because the Lord will say, ***"Well done, good and faithful servant"*** because of our obedience, not the amount of fruit we achieve.

- † **Matthew 25:21** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

- † **Matthew 24:46** *Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.*