

## Luke 19:13 (KJV)

*And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*

I remember last year when the riots were happening and people were pulling down statues, and no one, or should I say, the rest of the people in the cities did not step up and stop these hoodlums from their vandalism. They just sat in their nice comfy homes watching their city being ravaged by these people. Yet how many of us watched it on the news and said, “*Come quickly Lord Jesus*” and don’t we say that when bad things happen around us, or we read of them on the internet or hear about them on the news? And believe me, I am right there with everyone and say the same thing. *“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20*

But the question is, are you praying, “*Come quickly Lord Jesus*” but are you also just sitting back, Chillin’ waiting for the Lord to come back and that’s it? Yet you know of people around you that are not believers, be it at home or work or school or amongst your friends, but you are acting like those people who were shaking their heads in their homes over those who are destroying the cities with their vandalism, and doing nothing about it?

One saying that the Lord gave me years ago, which would apply to this teaching is, “*There’s one thing better than going to heaven, and that’s taking someone with you. There’s one thing worse than going to hell, and that’s taking someone with you.*” And I always ask the question at the end of, “*So where are you going and who are you taking with you?*”

Yes we all want Jesus to come back now and take us (the church, His bride) home to heaven. But our sole purpose for being a Christian is not to just kick back and wait for Jesus to come back. No, we are to “*occupy*” as Jesus said in today’s verse. Or as it say in the NLT and the Message bible:

† Luke 19:13b (MSG) *‘Operate with this until I return.’*

† Luke 19:13b (NLT2) *‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’*

“*Invest*”, “*operate*” which are both action words, meaning you need to do something (*invest, operate*) with this gift of salvation that the Lord has given you, and that something is to share it with others. It’s not to occupy a seat or a space in a church pew, but rather to get off your pew and do something. Yet so many will say, “*I don’t know what to do, or I can’t do anything*”. What that is actually saying is, “*I’m too lazy to get up and do something for the Kingdom of God. I just want to go there, but do nothing for it.*”

It's like a kid out of high school and saying, *"I don't know how to do anything; therefore, I am not going to get, or even look for a job. I'll just sit here playing video games and let everyone around me do all the work and take care of me."* It's a lazy excuse, because we were all teenagers, and knew that we needed to get a job, and so many fast food restaurants or stores are always hiring these young kids for their first jobs, all they have to do is get off their video game and get out there and apply for a job, until they find something.

Same with being a Christian, you may not be able to teach God's word, or play on the worship team or any other high profile service for the Lord, but that doesn't mean you can't do anything. As a teacher of God's word and being on the worship team, I did not start out that way, I started out by serving (and still do), helping out in the church, ushering, helping set things up or tear them down or whatever is needed. Simply, I got off my pew and served the Lord. Not because I had to, but because I wanted to, because it's not a job, it's a joy, and there is no joy in sitting in church doing nothing, and if you find that a joy, you have turned church into being all about you.

No, the real joy is sitting at Jesus feet in church and listening to His word being taught, but also spending just as much, if not more time helping and serving others, that's what Jesus is saying to us all, and that is to, ***"Occupy till I come."***

† **Ecclesiastes 4:5 (NLT2)** *"Fools fold their idle hands, leading them to ruin."*

† **Matthew 20:1-7** *For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'*