



**LIFE GROUP
STUDY GUIDE**

**LIFE
STORY**

**THE STORY OF THE
RIPE OPPORTUNITY**

Luke 19:11-27

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11As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.

12He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.

13Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'

14But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

15When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.

16The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.'

17And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

18And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.'

19And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

20Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief;

21for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'

22He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?

23Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'

24And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'

25And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!'

26'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.

27But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.' "

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

What do you notice in this story?

What details stand out to you?

What is the reason, according to Luke, that Jesus told this parable?

How much did each servant receive?

Does everyone in the kingdom want the nobleman to rule over them?



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit intended this story to be in Scripture?

What do you think the "minas" represent, since everyone received the same amount?

What is the 'business' of the Kingdom?

What is celebrated when the first two servants show what they have earned back?

Why is the third servant not received well?
What is wrong with his character or approach?

Do you think that the conclusion of the story is fair? How do you respond to the reality of the mina taken away or the enemies of the King being killed/judged?

We are called to faithful stewardship that reflects the nature of the relationship we have with Jesus.





WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME? WHAT CAN I DO THIS WEEK?

How have you been faithful to "do business" in the Kingdom?

What steps can you take to fulfill what Jesus has commanded in those "Great" passages?

>> Great Commandment >> Matthew 22:34-40

>> Great Commission >> Matthew 28:18-20

Have there been times when your misconceptions of God have prevented you from serving him?

How do you think you could respond to those 'citizens' who hate Jesus and do not want them to be their King?

Does the reality of a final judgement stir anything in you in terms of attitude or action?

Does it affect the way you view those citizens who hate Jesus?

PRAYER

How can the group be in prayer for your needs or concerns this week?

Is there anything that you would like to thank God for from the previous week?

PRAYER FOCUS:

- doing the 'business' of the Kingdom

- praying for someone you know who is rejecting Jesus at this point in their lives