

Redeeming Work

(Luke 19:11-27)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. Last week: Eternal life isn't earned, but a free gift by the grace of God through Jesus.
 - a. We repent of treasuring/worshiping things of this life above God, to treasure/worship Jesus as God.
 - b. Jesus is our eternal life & real treasure.
3. Follow-up question: What does Heavenly treasure look like?

Responsibility: Faithful investment [Luke 19:11-15]

1. [11] Context: Anticipation is building as they near Jerusalem: City of Kings, for the potential arrival of the Messiah King & Kingdom of God.
 - a. Jesus is correcting what & when to expect the Kingdom through a parable (a story with a point).
2. [12] Nobleman represents King Jesus, who will leave & return to reign at the end of the age.
 - a. [13] 10 servants represent all of us, who belong to the King, & are meant to serve Him.
 - b. He entrusts the same limited amount of resource to each to go about doing His business.
 - c. [14] The citizens (not the servants) hate & reject the king, as the religious of the day who should've welcomed King Jesus will hate & reject Him.
 - d. [15] The King returns & calls for a report: How have they leveraged His resources for the sake of the King & Kingdom?
 - e. It all belongs to King Jesus; we're simply the stewards.
3. Application: All of our resources are entrusted to us by King Jesus to multiply & invest in His Kingdom. How?
 - a. Kingdom Business: Intentionally invest/multiply resources to **point others to the goodness of the King**.
 - b. God gifts each of us with tangible & intangible resources in life.
 - i. Money, stuff, time, energy, talents, work, relationships.
 - c. Do we see ourselves as stewards or owners?
 - d. How are you investing your dollars & days? Does God get first-fruits or leftovers (cf. Luke 12:21)?
 - i. Illustration: 2 students and BIGFOOT youth retreat.
 - e. Do you bring the goodness & light of Christ to work/school or hide it under a basket (cf. Col 3:23-24)?
 - f. Do you intentionally reveal Christ's goodness & compassion in relationships with people?

Incentive: Faithful reward [Luke 19:16-19]

1. [16-19] God does offer an incentive: The King rewards good stewardship.
 - a. 2 wise & faithful servants have a 1000% and 500% return on investment, and are proportionately rewarded.
 - b. Forgiveness, salvation & eternal life are free by the grace of God.
 - c. As we respond to grace & faithfully live for the King's interests, we store up treasure in Heaven.
2. Jesus has already painted a picture of Heaven
 - a. [Luke 14] The best dinner celebration, with the best food/wine (Isa 25:6) like a wedding banquet (Rev 19:9).
 - b. [Luke 16] There's comfort, honor & joy with God; no more sorrow/pain/death (Rev 21:4); perfect intimacy/relationship with God & Jesus (John 17:3; Rev 21:3); the best worship (Rev 4:8-11).
 - c. We won't be bored; we will have work, as the faithful servants received as reward.

3. In Heaven, we will be equal in worth, dignity & love, but not all receive the same Heavenly reward.
 - a. [17] The servants are given authority over cities proportionately: Work.
 - b. Currently, work evokes toil, suffering, boredom, laziness as a consequence of sin (cf. Gen 3).
 - c. When King Jesus returns, the curse of sin will be removed (Rev 22:3); creation/work will be as meant to be.
 - i. We will use our talents, gifts, abilities & passions to serve & work in Christ to the fullest.
 - ii. Work will bring happiness, satisfaction, fulfillment & meaning as one way we worship God & enjoy life.
 - iii. *Illustration*: Optimal experience [from *Flow*]. This is only a shadow of work in Heaven.
 - d. Those who store up treasure in Heaven experience greater trust/joy of work in proportion to their Kingdom fruitfulness & faithfulness in this life.

Obstacle: Unfaithful investment [Luke 19:20-27]

1. [20-23] The false servant views the King wrongly.
 - a. [20-21] He sees the King through legalistic, man-made rules & religion, thinking He is harsh & unfair.
 - i. We'll become ungrateful, entitled & bitter.
 - ii. We fail to see God as a loving Father who cares, is good, & is generous (cf. Luke 15:31).
 - b. [22-23] He doesn't care about the King; he's using the privileges of begin a servant of the King to enjoy life.
 - i. We use the King to enjoy life, rather than love, trust & serve Him.
2. [24-27] Unfaithfulness results in losing everything.
 - a. [24-25] Opportunity, privileges, position & possible reward are all stripped away, becoming an eternal waste.
 - b. [26] Jesus reiterates: Those who are faithful will be given more; those who aren't will lose what they had.
 - i. Some will enter the Kingdom without any reward, like one who escaped a fire but lost everything (cf. 1 Cor 3:12-15).
 - c. [27] Some like enemies (cf. Luke 19:14) will be slaughtered (cf. Luke 16:24-26).
 - i. Those who wanted to be separate from the King will experience eternal death/separation from Jesus.

Conclusion

1. *Challenge*: There are 3 types of people in Jesus' story: Faithful, false, foe; which one are you?
 - a. Is He King over your life & resources, with you as the steward?
 - b. He reigns over all of it, all of us, anyway (cf. Phil 2:10-11).
2. *Challenge*: Are you wasting your life's work or redeeming it for Kingdom purposes?
 - a. Don't compartmentalize your life; it all belongs to God.
 - b. Be faithful in everyday life opportunities at home, work, school, in relationships (cf. Eph 6:15-16).
 - c. *Illustration*: Steve Bankes & front yard patio.
3. *Challenge*: Are you living an intentional lifestyle of pointing others to the King?
 - a. "5 For 5" Challenge: Leaders at The Crossing seek 5 intentional spiritual conversations (pointing others to the goodness of King Jesus) with unchurched people in the month of May.
 - i. Your story: sharing what God has done in your life, how He has been good to you.
 - ii. Their story: Sharing how God's biblical truth/wisdom can address their felt need or situation.
 - iii. *Illustration*: "Pray for you... in Jesus' name" so when the prayer is answered, they know Jesus is the Good King & God who answered.
 - b. One Dollar Challenge: Your pastor entrusts each of you with \$1. How will you use it (in combination with your own entrusted resources) to point others toward the goodness of the King today?