

Praise the Lord Jesus! Welcome back to this series exploring the different rewards God has promised and the criteria He will use to give them. We've already looked at several key principles in the past parts, and today we continue with Part Five.

5) There are rewards for ruling over many cities in God's Kingdom.

God has promised to give great authority to those who serve Him faithfully while here on earth.

Let's look at a parable Jesus shared to understand this better:

Luke 19:12-26 (NIV)

12 "He said: 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.

13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. "Put this money to work," he said, "until I come back."

14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

17 *“Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied.
‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter,
take charge of ten cities.’*

18 *“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned
five more.’*

19 *“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’*

20 *“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your
mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth.*

21 *I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take
out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’*

22 *“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words,
you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man,
taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not
sow?*

23 *Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that
when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’*

24 *“Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away
from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’*

25 *“‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’*

26 *“‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given,
but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will
be taken away.’”*

This parable speaks clearly for itself. When the Lord gives you a measure of grace or responsibility here on earth, He expects you

to use it and multiply it faithfully.

For example, if He's given you the grace to clean the church compound, He expects you to go above and beyond making sure the toilets are clean, the windows are spotless, and the chairs are always in order.

Why? Because when He returns, He'll evaluate what He entrusted you with and how well you managed it. If you viewed your task as unimportant and neglected it, He may ask, "If sweeping felt too beneath you, couldn't you have hired someone to do it, rather than leave My house untidy and overgrown?"

Just like He said to the servant who hid the money, "Why didn't you at least put it in the bank so I could get interest when I returned?"

That's how He will evaluate each of us.

But if we're faithful with what He's given us—even if it seems small—and we put in the effort to do even more, then know this: your faithfulness today will determine your authority in God's Kingdom tomorrow. If God rewards with cities, your rulership over

those cities will match the level of your faithfulness now.

This should encourage us to serve the Lord wholeheartedly without making excuses, without looking down on any task, and striving to go above and beyond wherever we can. It's those "little things" that will ultimately measure the riches of our reward.

May the Lord bless you as you serve Him faithfully.

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