

# THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS

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In Luke 19:11, Jesus was near to Jerusalem at a time when the people “thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.” Therefore, Jesus taught them a parable, similar to the parable of the talents recorded in Matthew 25:14-30. But the version in Luke 19:12-27 also deals with the issue of Jesus being the Christ and his reign over his kingdom, the church. It also teaches several key lessons about eternal judgment.

## **Jesus received his kingdom in heaven**

Luke 19:12 says, “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.” This “nobleman” is clearly a reference to Jesus Christ himself. The “far country” where Jesus would go to receive his kingdom (the church) is heaven. This agrees with Daniel 7:13-14 where Jesus goes *up* to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive his kingdom: “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, *and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*” Acts 2:33-36 also teaches this: “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. *For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*” This point completely destroys the false doctrine of premillennialism that says Jesus will receive his kingdom on earth *when* he returns. Jesus said he would receive his kingdom when he went to heaven and then later would return to earth and gather all men to judge them. When Jesus returns, he will have *already received his kingdom* (Luke 19:15).

## **The response of the “citizens” and the “servants”**

In the Lord’s parable, when the nobleman was leaving, “he called his

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(continued)

ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). Jesus has told his servants, the church, to do his will and spread his gospel until the end of the world (Matt 28:18-20). “But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). The Jews, the Lord’s “citizens,” rejected Christ as their ruler. John 1:11 says, “*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*” When the nobleman returned, he judged his servants first. The pound of the first servant had gained ten pounds and was given authority over ten cities (Luke 19:15-17). The second servant had gained five pounds and was given authority over five cities (Luke 19:18-19). The third servant had fearfully put his pound in a napkin and gained nothing. His pound was taken from him and given to the servant with ten pounds (Luke 19:20-25).

## **Lessons about the judgment**

There are at least three major lessons taught in this parable about the judgment. 1) “*Unto every one which hath shall be given*” (Luke 19:26). Faithful Christians will be eternally rewarded with duties and responsibilities in heaven (Rev 7:9-17; 22:3-5). 2) “*From him that has not, even that he has shall be taken away from him*” (Luke 19:26). Unfaithful Christians will have everything taken away from them and be eternally punished. These first two lessons pertain to the kingdom of God, namely, the judgment of Christians (which are here divided into the two major classes, the faithful and unfaithful) and were taught by Christ because the people were expecting the kingdom to come immediately. Jesus took advantage of this expectation to teach them (and us) these crucial lessons about Christians. 3) “*But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me*” (Luke 19:27). This lesson teaches about the judgment of the world (the only remaining major class of people and the group with by far the largest number of people in it). Jesus taught this particular lesson “because he was nigh to Jerusalem” where his rejection as King of the Jews would soon take place.