

# THE NOBLEMAN AND THE POUNDS

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Luke 19:11-27 contains a parable very similar to the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. The text reads: “And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.”

## **Receiving the kingdom**

In the parable, the “nobleman” is without question Jesus Christ. 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. This also 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

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(continued)

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 rejection of the nobleman, and accounting of the pounds**

When the nobleman was leaving, “he called his 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. 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 from the parable**

There are three major lessons taught in this parable. First, the Lord said, “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). Second, Christ said, “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. These lessons 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. Third, Christ concluded the parable by stating, “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 was taught 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” (Luke 19:11), where his rejection as King of the Jews would soon take place.