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Stories of the Master

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~ **The Ten Servants and their Ten Coins** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Luke 19:11-28.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

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| Luke 19:11-28 NASB | Luke 18:35-19:10 NLT |
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| <p>¹¹ While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. ¹² So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and <i>then</i> return. ¹³ And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business <i>with this</i> until I come <i>back</i>.’ ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵ When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. ¹⁶ The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’ ¹⁸ The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’ ¹⁹ And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ ²⁰ Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’ ²² He *said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴ Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵ And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas <i>already</i>.’ ²⁶ I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to</p> | <p>¹¹ The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. ¹² He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. ¹³ Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ ¹⁴ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’</p> <p>¹⁵ “After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. ¹⁶ The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’</p> <p>¹⁷ “‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’</p> <p>¹⁸ “The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’</p> <p>¹⁹ “‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’</p> <p>²⁰ “But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. ²¹ I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’</p> <p>²² “‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own</p> |

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| <p>reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.”</p> <p>²⁸ After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.</p> | <p>words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, ²³ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’</p> <p>²⁴ “Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’</p> <p>²⁵ “‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’</p> <p>²⁶ “‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ²⁷ And as for these enemies of mine who didn’t want me to be their king—bring them in and execute them right here in front of me.’”</p> <p>²⁸ After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples.</p> |
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2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes – Kenneth Bailey

1. Herod the Great made a trip to Rome in 40 BC seeking Roman authority to be appointed as king over Judea.
2. Archelaus made the same trip in 4BC as he argued his case against his half-brother Antipas to be the successor to Herod the Great.
3. In the story, the nobleman is ruling in a situation of uncertainty. It is uncertain who will win the right to rule, the nobleman, or his enemies.
4. When the nobleman gives his servants the money, he is asking them to take a risk to identify with him in their businesses.
5. What business they had done – “the master is seeking to discover the extent to which they have openly and publicly declared their loyalty to him during the risky period of his absence.” 402
6. The focus is not on profits but on faithfulness to the master during his absence.
7. The fear of the third servant was that in using the coin, he would use it to back the wrong person and his life would be in jeopardy.
8. The servant is attempting to complement the master. Taking up what he did not lay down and reaping what he did not sow is to complement him as one who plunders his neighbors successfully. He has a twisted version of the master.

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Answer these reflective questions.

Jesus told the story because they believed God’s kingdom was going to appear immediately? What was wrong about their belief?

According to the story told, who did the servants represent? Who did the citizens represent?

Why did the one servant hide his money? Why did he think that his master was a harsh master?

What does this verse mean, “To him who has shall more be given. To him who has not, even what he has shall be taken away from him”? Would you consider yourself to be someone who has something from God and if so are you doing anything with it?

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Who are you like in the story, the rebellious citizens, the faithful servants, or the servant who hid the money?
