

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School 'Lesson'

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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 25

THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS

LESSON TEXT—Luke 19:11-27.
GOLDEN TEXT—He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much.—Luke 16:10.
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Tim. 4:13-14.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Working for Jesus.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Faithful and Unfaithful Workers.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Fidelity That Jesus Expects.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Returns Does Christ Require of Us?

The purpose of this parable was to correct the misapprehension of the disciples as to the immediate establishment of the kingdom. They were on the way to Jerusalem and they thought that immediately upon their arrival there Jesus would begin the exercise of His kingdom rule. It is to be noted that Jesus did not correct them for believing in the reality of the kingdom, but for believing that it would immediately appear.

I. The Absent Lord (v. 12).
He pictures His going back to God as a nobleman going to receive a kingdom. This was a common occurrence among them. They knew how some of the Herodian family had thus done—gone to Rome and secured their appointment to rule over Palestine. Jesus ascended on high to receive from God, the Father, a kingdom. Let no one mistake the certainty of His return, though the time be unknown, and the event delayed.

II. The Distribution of the Pounds (v. 13).
These pounds represent Christ's gifts to His servants. When Christ ascended He gave gifts to men (Eph. 4:7, 8, 11, 12). To each servant was given the same amount, showing that to all a certain gift has been given and therefore all will be held responsible for its use. The distribution was made by the sovereign. It was also a purposeful distribution. They were to put their gifts to use during His absence. What the nobleman demanded was faithfulness. The pounds were to be used for the Master, not for the selfish enjoyment of the servant.

III. The Rebellious Citizens (v. 14).
They hated Him and sent messengers after Him, notifying Him of their refusal to be subject to Him. This pictures the unbelief of the Jews after Christ's ascension and their repudiation of His rule. It also pictures the unbelieving world in its hatred and rejection of Christ.

IV. The Accounting (v. 15-27).
1. His Certainty. Christ will surely bring everyone to account for the use made of His gifts. He has appointed a day in which He shall judge the world (Acts 17:31).

2. Time Of (v. 15). It will take place when Jesus comes back to earth. At that time He will summon His servants and reckon with them. This will take place when He has received His kingdom. He will reward His kingdom when he asks the Father (Pa. 2:8).

3. Rewards Given for Faithfulness (v. 16-19). (1) The first report (vv. 16, 17). The pound had gained ten pounds. He did not say, "I have made ten pounds," but "Thy pound hath gained ten pounds." He recognized the Lord's ownership. To this the Lord replied by commendation. He praised him and promoted him. He was made ruler over ten cities. (2) The second report (v. 18). In this case the pound had gained five pounds. He did not get the Lord's commendation for he had not done so well, but he was appointed to a place of rulership over five cities. The reward in each case was proportioned to faithfulness during the Lord's absence. The principle of reward was shown to be that faithfulness in very small things prepares for larger responsibilities.

4. Judgment Upon the Unfaithful (v. 20-27). (1) His report (vv. 20, 21). This report was entirely bad. He had not put the pound to use, but laid it away, throwing the blame upon the Lord. He asserted that the character of the Lord was such as to produce fear. Men are filling today in their service because they have wrong conceptions of Christ. (2) Commendation (v. 22, 23). The wicked servant is judged out of his own mouth. His excuse increased his guilt. He is called wicked. (3) Stripped of the pound (v. 24-26). To fail to use one's gifts means to lose them. One of the losses of the next world will be the deprivation of what we have now. (4) Warning (v. 27). Those who reject Christ, refusing to submit to His authority, shall share the same deprivation as those who are unfaithful in His service.

Hypocrisy.
Hypocrites, of course, delight in the most subtle speculations; for never intending to go beyond speculation, it costs nothing to have it magnificent.—Burke.

The Tears of Children.
Oh, banish the tears of children! Continual rains upon the blossoms are harmful.—Richter.

The Lash in the Dark.
Many a lash in the dark, doth conscience give the wicked.—Boston.

NOTICE
Under and by virtue of the authority contained in a certain deed of trust executed on the 29th day of December, 1919, by W. T. Hyman and wife, Mary E. Hyman and of record in the public registry of Martin county, book A-2, page 385, to secure the

payment of certain bonds of even date therein, and the stipulations in the said deed of trust not having been complied with and at the request of the holder of said bond, the undersigned trustee, will on March 5, 1923, at 2:00 o'clock, p. m., at the court house door of Martin county, offer at public sale to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

First tract: Bounded on the north by Cohono creek; on the east by L. T. Chesson; on the south by the public road leading from Hamilton to Oak City, N. C.; on the west by H. S. Everett and J. T. Daniel, containing 100 acres, more or less, and being the same premises described in a deed from W. B. Rose and wife to William Cherry, of record in the public registry of Martin county in book RR, at page 473.

Second tract: Beginning at the road from Hamilton to Goose Nest at a ditch at the corner of N. M. Worsley; thence along said line north to J. T. Hyman's corner of the Harrell land, thence nearly west along said Hyman's line to the road; thence on down the road to the beginning, containing one acre, more or less and being the same land described in a deed of record in the public registry of Martin county in book CCC, at page 162, Martin county registry.

Fourth tract: Beginning at an old stump on the public road leading from Oak City to Hamilton, N. C., near W. S. Cherry's house, and running thence along said Cherry's line south 88 east 9.20 chains to N. M. Worsley's old line; thence along his line N. 15 degrees 30 minutes east 4.90 chains; thence east 90 links to W. S. Cherry's corner; thence north 4 east 10.80 chains; thence south 38 degrees 45 minutes west 19.50 chains to the beginning. Containing 8.2 acres, more or less, and being the same premises described in a deed from H. S. Everett and others to W. S. Cherry, of record in book S-S at page 353, Martin county registry.

This, the first day of February, 1923.

R. H. SALSBUURY,
Trustee.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by J. E. White and wife, Amanda White to the undersigned trustee, and bearing the date of October 5th, 1918, and of record in the Martin county public registry in book O-1 at page 496, said deed of trust having been given to secure the payment of certain notes of even date therewith, and the terms and conditions therein not having been complied with, and at the request of the holder of said notes, the undersigned trustee will on Monday, the 19th day of March, 1923, in front of the court house door of Martin county at Williamston, N. C., offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the following described lands to wit:

First tract: Situate in the state and county aforesaid, and bounded on the north by Cohono creek; on the south by Maxilla Purvis line; on the west by the W. T. Outterbridge line; on the east by the lands belonging to the estate of Joshua Taylor, deceased; it being the tract of land that J. W. Outterbridge received of his father, Joseph W. Outterbridge, deceased. Containing two hundred and twenty five (225) acres, more or less, and being the P. R. Reeves home place, and being the same premises described in a deed from Leslie Fowden to B. B. Smith, of record in the public registry of Martin county in book L-1 at page 338.

Second tract: Adjoining the tract above described, and being a part of the land conveyed to H. B. Smith by Z. D. F. White by deed of record in the public registry of Martin county, and being at the land described in the aforesaid deed situate on the right hand side of the public road in going from Williamston to Hamilton, N. C., containing forty (40) acres, more or less.

This the 14th day of Feb., 1923.

A. R. DUNNING,
Trustee.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by J. D. Slade and wife, Berrissia Slade to the undersigned trustee, and bearing the date of January 6th, 1920, and of record in the Martin county public registry in book A-2 at page 403, said deed of trust having been given to secure the payment of certain notes of even date therewith, and the terms and conditions therein not having been complied with, and at the request of the holder of said notes, the undersigned trustee will on Monday, the 19th day of March, 1923, in front of the court house door of Martin county at Williamston, N. C., offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the following described lands to

wit: That certain lot or parcel of land situate in the county of Martin, state aforesaid and in the town of Williamston, adjoining the lands of John Edwards, Geo. W. Blount and others, beginning at John Edwards corner on Main street, running along Main street to the A. C. L. railroad; thence along the said railroad towards Tarboro to the big trestle and a ditch; thence down said ditch and a branch along the line of G. W. Blount to John Edwards corner in the branch; thence along John Edwards line to Main street, the beginning. Containing one acre, more or less, and being the same land deeded to J. D. Slade and A. O. Brown by Bettie Andrews, by deed dated Jan. 8th, 1920.

This the 14th day of Feb., 1923.

G. C. GODWIN,
Trustee.

2-16-4t
Dunning, Moore and Horton,
Attorneys.

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