

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Luke 19:11-27
Monday	Matthew 21:28-22:14; Psalm 38:16-22; Proverbs 6:14-16
Tuesday	Matthew 22:15-46; Psalm 39; Proverbs 6:17-19
Wednesday	Matthew 23:1-39; Psalm 40:1-7; Proverbs 6:20-23
Thursday	Matthew 24:1-14; Psalm 40:8-17; Proverbs 6:24-27
Friday	Matthew 24:15-35; Psalm 41:1-5; Proverbs 6:28-30
Saturday	Matthew 24:36-25:13; Psalm 41:6-13; Proverbs 6:31-33

DEVOTIONAL: READ LUKE 19:11-27

Right before Jesus entered Jerusalem, He told a parable to His followers because “they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately” (Luke 19:11 ESV). In this parable, a master is going away to receive his kingship, and while he is gone, he entrusts his servants with ten minas each and instructs them to put the money to work. The servants who were faithful to use what they were given produced fruitful results and were rewarded in abundance upon the master’s return. The one servant who hid his money away received nothing, and what he had was taken away from him. The focus of this parable is not on this servant’s failure to earn anything for the master, but on his unwillingness to even try.

Like the master, God expects us to invest the gifts that He has given us for His eternal glory while waiting for His return. We are like the unfaithful servant when we disregard those investment opportunities because we are fearful, unwilling to try, or maybe just too lazy or selfish. For everything good we have is by His grace, and by His grace we will be rewarded for our faithfulness.

If you know Jesus as your personal Savior, you have been given the incredible gift of new life in Him! He has also given you the ability to join Him in the joy of investing in those around you and being a part of God’s growing Kingdom here on earth. May we all willingly invest those gifts to the fullest!

REFLECTION

How are you investing spiritually in the lives of others?

What are some specific gifts or opportunities God has given you? Are you using those to benefit God's Kingdom or keeping them to yourself? How can you start today or who can you talk to about finding a way to use your gifts?

What obstacles (fear, selfishness, not feeling qualified, etc.) are hindering your ability to invest in God's Kingdom? What steps can you take today to overcome them?

Read the introduction to the season of Lent that starts this week (Wednesday, February 26). Make a plan for you and your family to engage with Lent.

DISCUSSION

How have you seen someone use their gifts for the benefit of others?

PRAYER

O God, I seek Your kingdom. I long for Your return. When I am tempted to be unfaithful, keep me faithful. Help me believe that obedience is worth it. Help me trust that You know best. Help me run the good race and keep the faith—for Your glory and my good.

As I wait for Your return, help me to invest all that I have in Your kingdom. Thank You for the gifts and abundance that You have given me. Open my eyes to opportunities to boldly use my gifts and my life for You. Lead me in wisdom, generosity, and sacrifice to see others come to know and love You. Use me to help others see the way that You love them.

Lord, all that I am and all I have is Yours. Use me for Your glory. As I wait for the fullness of Your kingdom, may it grow in power on earth as it is in heaven. May Your presence fill my life, my work, my family, my community, and my church. King Jesus, I joyfully look forward to and long for the day You return, just as You promised You would. Amen.