



# Daily Reflections

**November 21, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 19: 11-28**

While people were listening to Jesus speak, he proceeded to tell a parable because he was near Jerusalem and they thought that the Kingdom of God would appear there immediately.

So he said,

"A nobleman went off to a distant country to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return.

He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins and told them, 'Engage in trade with these until I return.'

His fellow citizens, however, despised him and sent a delegation after him to announce,

'We do not want this man to be our king.'

But when he returned after obtaining the kingship, he had the servants called, to whom he had given the money, to learn what they had gained by trading.

The first came forward and said,

'Sir, your gold coin has earned ten additional ones.'

He replied, 'Well done, good servant!

You have been faithful in this very small matter; take charge of ten cities.'

Then the second came and reported,

'Your gold coin, sir, has earned five more.'

And to this servant too he said,  
'You, take charge of five cities.'  
Then the other servant came and said,  
'Sir, here is your gold coin;  
I kept it stored away in a handkerchief,  
for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding man;  
you take up what you did not lay down  
and you harvest what you did not plant.'  
He said to him,  
'With your own words I shall condemn you,  
you wicked servant.  
You knew I was a demanding man,  
taking up what I did not lay down  
and harvesting what I did not plant;  
why did you not put my money in a bank?  
Then on my return I would have collected it with interest.'  
And to those standing by he said,  
'Take the gold coin from him  
and give it to the servant who has ten.'  
But they said to him,  
'Sir, he has ten gold coins.'  
He replied, 'I tell you,  
to everyone who has, more will be given,  
but from the one who has not,  
even what he has will be taken away.  
Now as for those enemies of mine who did not want me as their king,  
bring them here and slay them before me.'  
After he had said this,  
he proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In telling this very familiar parable on stewardship, Jesus teaches the crowds that all of us are put in this world with work to do. We have been given the gifts of time, talent and treasure to produce for the Lord. Like the three stewards we will be called to give an accounting of the use of God's gifts. What will you have to show? A clue: Safe keeping, laziness, busyness are not approved approaches to stewardship.

# Food for your Journey

"The story line in Jesus' parable of the talents calls for the money given the stewards to be risked precisely because it is God's money. The stewards hold it only in trust and will be held accountable for its use. Jesus' point keeps rolling off our Teflon consciences like water off a duck's back. People with possessions do not want to be reminded that those possessions are to be held in trust and continually laid before the throne of grace, available to do God's good pleasure. So, rather than live with that burr under our saddle, we, like the rich would-be disciple, choose to turn away. We go on our way - and usually not, as he did, sorrowfully. We go on our way rejoicing, rejoicing in our good fortune, grateful to General Motors [a.k.a. "Generous Motors"] but not to God Almighty.

"But the Bible stands there as stubborn as a rock, and every time we open it to read, we stub our toe on its assumption that all the resources of our lives come from God: the strength of our hands, the cleverness of our minds, the health we enjoy and the possessions with which we have been blessed. God has loaned them to us in trust. We are stewards of these gifts of grace, and we are to use them whenever and however the Spirit indicates."

-William Robert McClelland,

Worldly Spirituality: Biblical Reflections

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## A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, You love me and know everything about. You entrust me with many precious gifts for the work of Your Kingdom. Help me, Lord, to use my time, talent and treasure to do wonderful things for You and Your people. Amen