

## I. Read Luke 19:11-27

- A. In verses 11-27, we read of Jesus using a parable to explain both the principles and responsibilities inherent in stewardship. This parable differs from the *parable of the talents* in Matthew 25:14-29. Read the Matthew passage and explain how it differs.  
**According to the *New Geneva Study Bible*, in the Matthew passage “the amounts are larger and vary in size, testing the servants for larger tasks.” In the Luke passage, “the amounts are small and the same for all.”**

How are they similar?

**They both teach that we must be willing to serve God faithfully with whatever He entrusts to us and that we are responsible for *the return* which we obtain.**

- B. What do you think accounts for the difference with respect to the return of the first slave (verse 16) as compared to that of the second slave (verse 18)?

**The return was determined by the slaves' investment savvy. In other words, the first slave made the better investment.**

- C. In what way(s) has God entrusted us with resources to invest for Him?

**God has given us *time, treasure* and *talent*. We are responsible individually and collectively as a church to invest them in a way that will produce the greatest yield. *Time* and *treasure* are self-explanatory in this respect, but *talent* refers primarily to our spiritual gifts. For example, if our church is primarily a *teaching* church, it is important to emphasize and support *the teaching ministries* of the church. If our church has a preponderance of folks with *mercy ministry and benevolence-related gifts*, we have a responsibility to develop those gifts. On the individual level, we must continually evaluate the manner in which we serve our church and our Lord. We need to be stretched, and we need to know who we are and how we can be most effective in furthering the kingdom of God!**

- D. Relate the principles of stewardship to our particular church. What sort of things might we do to produce a greater yield from our investments of *time, talent* and *treasure*?

**We are situated in a growing community (one of the fastest growing in the state). We have certain spiritual gifts that set us apart from other churches in our community (teaching, knowledge, exhortation). We should do all that we can to increase the number of folks exposed to that teaching and the Reformed Faith. This means expanding both our ministries and our facility. According to Dr. Cortez Cooper (Director of MNA), we can maximize our impact on our culture and the foreign mission field by helping plant PCA churches. Further, we can become salt and light by planting PCA churches that teach the whole counsel of God. Consider the impact we can have on future generations of Americans through supporting and encouraging the RUF ministries at Texas A&M, The University of Texas, Baylor, Texas Tech, U.T.-Tyler, A&M Corpus Christi, Rice, etc.**

- E. How might the “worthless slave” described in verses 20-24 convey a picture of a very real danger for churches?

**There is a tendency for both individuals and churches to protect what they have and retreat inward, being fearful of losing what they have attained because of being too aggressive. This reflects both a lack of faith and disobedience. For example, will we as a church continue to grow and increase our facility, thus enabling more folks to hear the truth, or will we *sit on our laurels*? Will we choose comfort over challenge; safety over opportunity? Will we as individuals moderate or discontinue our stewardship because of “all the money and time I**

have given in the past” or will we continue to aggressively invest in the kingdom of God? The example of the “worthless slave” is a very real danger to churches at our stage of growth. Have you ever said things like, “I don’t want our church to grow anymore; I like it just the way it is” or “I’ve done my part already; it’s time for others to step up and do their part now”? These reflect the attitude and sentiments of the “worthless slave.” This may seem like a tough comparison to make, but it is an important one nevertheless.

- F. How does one know he/she is doing all he/she can to become a faithful steward? **In truth, it is difficult because we have such a capacity for deceiving ourselves. The responsibility of stewardship may differ somewhat for all of us in application, but the principle applies to all of us. (Read Romans 12:1-2.)**

What does Romans 12:1-2 say Christians should do, and how does this passage relate to Luke 19:11-27?

**First of all, we must recognize that God wants *all* of us, not just bits and pieces. Our natural inclination is to give Him some parts of our lives but to hold back some other parts for ourselves. The Scripture is clear, saying “present your bodies (*all of you and all that you have*) a living and holy sacrifice.” Secondly, it is necessary that we continually guard against the fads and fashions of our culture that cater to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. The world will never encourage us to become good stewards, but rather will *always* work against us! Finally, the parable of the slaves investing the *minas* is simply a picture or snapshot of our own lives. What Paul exhorts in Romans 12:1-2 is that all of our *time, talent* and *treasure* should be used in the best possible way to further the kingdom of God. Whether we like it or not, we all fit into one of the scenarios described (first slave, second slave, worthless slave).**

- G. What can the good steward or faithful slave (servant) expect from God? (See verses 17, 19, 26.) **Increased opportunities for service and the blessings of an abundant and fulfilling life! To put it another way, the first and second slaves of Luke 19 had found genuine happiness and purpose in their lives. They were involved in something bigger than filling their own bank account or padding their own nests, and the result was the blessings of Godly success.**