

A Rewarding Life, Lesson 5, April 26, 2020

- We looked last time at the bema seat and the gold standard --**I Cor. 3:14-15**
 - This is a startling thought: Even though a person's salvation is not at risk at Christ's judgment seat, it is possible that a person could step into eternity with little or nothing to show for the life that they lived here.
 - Maybe you're like me, and the prospect of getting to go to Heaven is so wonderful that I can't imagine needing or wanting more "[So what if I don't get rewards?](#)"
 - If you're like me, You're in for a surprise!!
 - First Paul here in I Cor. – why write this if rewards won't matter?
 - Secondly, John: **II Jn.1:8**, no wonder he says this: **I Jn. 2:28**

1. When we get to heaven, what do you suppose our greatest desire will be?

- Here's another question that I think will help us answer the first: When you love someone with all your heart, is it enough for you to express that love only in words?
- Real Love always seeks an avenue for action: **I Cor. 13:4**
- Words were not enough for God either: **Jn. 3:16**

When you stand before Jesus, you will be overwhelmed with God's awesome plan and His awesome love towards you and you will be overwhelmed to respond in kind by giving love back to Him --- **words will not be enough!!! Rev. 4:10-11 (will you have a crown to throw? You will wish you had!!)**

- We're going to see that there is direct connection between how well we manage our life for God here on earth and how much we will actually be able to do for Him in Heaven.

2. Time and again, Jesus gave illustrations of what His Kingdom would be like

- Time and again, there was a recurrent pattern: He, the King would go away and leave the business of His Kingdom in the hands of us, His followers.
- The word the Bible uses to describe our role in His Kingdom is that of a **Steward**.
- A Steward is someone who has been charged with managing someone else's assets.
- You have been commissioned by your Lord to manage a single asset of His: **YOUR LIFE = The sum of your talents, strengths, personality, opportunity and material possessions.**
- Your Lord will return, and you will give an account for how you spent His asset.
- Therefore, every day you should be asking yourself this question: **"How will I manage what My Lord has placed into my care?"**

3. One of Jesus' best-known parables of His Kingdom and our stewardship is in the Parable of the Minas.

- **Lk. 19:11-13** -- "Business"? = the King's business
- **Vv. 14-17** -- "very little" = that's all this life amounts to in the scheme of things.
- That's how this life and its opportunities compares to the next life and its opportunities.
- **VV. 18-19** -- What is omitted is what rings the loudest here: Doesn't Say -- "**Well done**", "**good servant**", "**faithful**".
- **VV. 20-26** -- Pay careful attention here because this is a clear illustration of what Paul meant when he said some believers would "suffer loss" when their lives were judged.

4. This Parable refutes several common beliefs:

1. We think God is not really bothered if we don't make the most of every opportunity.
 2. We think the way we spend our opportunities in this life will not affect our opportunities in the life that is to come.
 3. We think that if we don't serve God with what He's given us, the worse that could happen would be no reward.
 - "Suffer Loss" losing the opportunity to serve God more fully in life that is to come.
 - The thing you'll want to do the most in Heaven, you will not be able to do, Serve.
- So, you see there is a very good reason to ask ourselves the question: **Am I a Ten Mina Steward?**