

WEEKLY SERMON

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The Kingdom Business

We live in a world of work, business, investment, and multiplication: where money is invested to make profit, to multiply wealth and to increase estates.

Jesus has used this business language in the parable of the ten minas: where a man of noble birth (a wealthy man) went away to receive a Kingdom. Before he went, he gave a mina to each of his ten servants, and said, put this money into work until I come back (13). In other words, he said, in my absence do my business and make profit so that my Kingdom may grow. And when he returned: he judged those who rejected his Kingship and those who did not invest his mina. But he rewarded those who faithfully served in his absence. Jesus compares himself to this man who went away to receive his Kingdom. At the heart of this parable, there are two things to note.

First, the King and his Kingdom. Jesus is nearing Jerusalem and people think that the Kingdom of God is going to appear at once (11). But in reality, the Kingdom is already present. Earlier in Luke 17:21, Jesus said, 'the coming of the Kingdom is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, here it is, or there it is. Because the Kingdom is in your midst'.

The Kingdom is already inaugurated by Jesus through his incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection. However, the Kingdom is not yet fully realised. There is a delay because he wants more and more people to be saved and added into his Kingdom. At present his Kingdom is being built but one day he will return in power and glory to fully accomplish his Kingdom. So, the Kingdom is both now and not yet. Nonetheless, one thing is certain that Jesus is the King of his Kingdom which he initiated with his first coming and will consummate at his second.

The second thing to note is, the King and his Business. In the parable, a mina is a gift of money from a master to his servants to invest in business. And the most precious gift we receive from our master and King is the forgiveness of sins to have life in all its fullness. This is the gift/the mina/the gospel. And Jesus commands his servants/disciples to invest his mina/his gospel. We are to invest the gospel of Jesus in our own lives so that the Kingdom may grow in our lives.

But it is also the call to invest the gospel in the world. It is a call to the Kingdom business of being witnesses. Active, authentic, and intentional witnesses wherever we are placed; in our families, in our neighbourhood, in our workplaces, in our parishes, in our diocese, and beyond, so that the Kingdom of the King would multiply and grow. In this Kingdom business being laid back and not sharing the gospel is not an option, being fed and not telling others where to find the bread is not a choice and being saved and not telling others by whom to be saved is not the Kingdom rule.

The call is to invest the gospel in the interim between Jesus' first and second coming. And one day the King will return with power and glory to judge those who oppose and reject him, but to reward those who faithfully serve him and invest his gospel in the Kingdom business.

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