



Life Group Study Notes
“The Path: Equip Classes”
Ps. Bruce Fidler - May 20, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's the most challenging job or assignment you've ever had?
- What's the most rewarding job or assignment you've ever had?
- Who's the best boss you've ever had? Why?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote: Be equipped to engage in fruitful service as Jesus' bondservant!

The Parable of the Minas - Luke 19:11-27 (ESV)

As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' And he

said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

- The nobleman's servants were bondservants; i.e., those who had willingly offered themselves to belong to him and to permanently serve him.
- 1 Mina was 100 days wages for a common laborer; i.e., about 4 months salary.
- The nobleman expected his bondservants to work and be fruitful with what he had entrusted to them.
- The first two bondservants had been faithful and fruitful. In return, the king bestowed extraordinary blessing and responsibility upon them beyond all expectation.
- The third servant betrayed his identity as a bondservant! He was unwilling to work for the king and was critical of having to labor for the king's benefit.
- The king viewed the selfish, unwilling servant as wicked. He deprived him of that which had been entrusted to him. Surprisingly, however, he does not punish the selfish servant any further.
- The citizens who hated the nobleman and rejected him as king, were viewed as enemies by the king. The king was fierce in his justice when he returned, killing them without mercy.

All of this points to Jesus, who went to heaven where he was crowned king of heaven and earth. When he returns, he will settle accounts with his servants and his enemies.

We too are God's bondservants, having surrendered ourselves unconditionally to Jesus as our master. Jesus commanded us to be fruitful and to apply ourselves in his service with all that he has entrusted to us. We can expect him when he returns to honor us and reward us beyond all expectation for everything we do for him in this life.

WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE EQUIPPED TO ENGAGE IN FRUITFUL SERVICE.

Bethel provides great opportunities to do this as part of our Discipleship Path.

BETHEL'S DISCIPLESHIP PATH is KNOW, GROW, GO! The 3rd step in GROW is Bethel's Equip Classes. We have a School of Discipleship that can strengthen every believer and equip them to help others follow Jesus. See www.bethelequip.org.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What does it mean for us to be Jesus' bondservants?
- What has God entrusted to us that should be employed in his service?
- How can we increase our fruitfulness for Jesus?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for receiving us as his bondservants.
- Ask God to make us fruitful for him.
- Ask God to increase our hope for the future rewards he has promised us.