

Title: THE MAN BEHIND THE MINAS, LUKE 19:11-27; 20:9-18  
(Chatham, NJ; 11/03/13, AM) [D – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: God's personality is revealed in the Parables of the Minas and Tenants; the events in between them reveal more.

Purpose: To examine the character of God and to warn us about the dangers of irresponsible behavior.

Introduction:

1. Today we look at two parables and the intervening episodes from God's point of view.
2. What does he see? What does he expect? Why does He do what he does?
3. Put yourself in the position of the master in both situations.
4. How do the episodes in between relate to his perspective?

#### I. The Man behind the Minas, Luke 19:11-27

- A. Take care of *my* money
  1. Ownership is important
  2. It is important to understand that God owns all things
  3. Old Testament law values ownership; things belong to individuals not to whole communities (An objective of Marxism was to get rid of all private property)
- B. He rewards success and punishes laziness
  1. Faithfulness in little translates into being rewarded with greater things, 17-18
  2. As they prospered, so were they rewarded
  3. The wicked servant admitted that he knew the mind of the master
  4. The master gives the mina to the one who already had ten (not to someone unwilling to do the work); "he who has will be given more," 26
- C. The master receives his kingdom
  1. Many don't want him to be king, but he is crowned anyway
  2. Psalm 2:1-6, why do people plot against the Lord and his anointed
  3. 9 – he will break them like pottery
  4. Psalm 110:1 – his enemies will become his footstool
  5. If God is *not* like this, what then?
  6. The power vacuum will be filled by someone else (You don't want that.)

#### II. Stepping out from behind the minas, 19:28 – 20:8

- A. Jesus enters Jerusalem
  1. A triumphant king, "the very stones would cry out" 40
  2. Taking ownership of the Kingdom; it has always been his
  3. His kingdom will never end
- B. He weeps over Jerusalem
  1. A hard man with a heart?
  2. More than F. Sinatra's "tender tough guy" image
  3. Jesus is the real thing: a tough ruler who is "gentle and humble in heart"
  4. He'd rather have us live under his rule
  5. His compassion does not influence him to change his standards
  6. The responsibility is still on the subjects to accept him and his ways
- C. He cleanses the temple
  1. He challenges those who have perverted the essence of the Kingdom
  2. His Kingdom is to be a place to commune with God

3. They had turned it into a place of business (a crooked one at that)
4. He threatened their source of income

D. He stands firm

1. His authority is challenged
2. He doesn't back down from his critics
3. He exposes their duplicity
4. Their only goal is to discredit him in the hope that they will maintain their control of power

III. The Parable of the Wicked Tenants, 20:9-18

A. The master leases out *his* vineyard

1. Ownership plays another important role
2. The tenants refuse to honor the contract
3. Three times they abuse the master's representatives (the prophets)
4. Finally, they think they can seize the property by killing the heir

B. The master punishes their wickedness

1. Should he *not* hold them accountable? (God is just)
2. In Mt. 21:41 the crowd agrees with what he should do, "Put those wretches to a miserable death."
3. Some in Luke's crowd can't believe this would happen

C. The stone that the builders rejected

1. Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22
2. What the world rejects, God elevates

Conclusions:

1. God will not tolerate challenges to his ownership and authority.
2. He will not tolerate those who pervert his Kingdom for personal benefit.
3. Don't reject this stone of God.
4. You must accept him in faith and obedience; he is Lord as much as he is savior.
5. Accept that deep within your heart and let Him be your guiding light.