

BIBLE READING DAY 32, WEDNESDAY: MARCH 30

The Blind Healed

Luke 18:35–43 (Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52)

And it came to pass as Jesus drew near to Jericho, two blind men were sitting by the roadside begging. Hearing a crowd passing by, one of them, Blind Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, asked what was going on.

“Jesus of Nazareth is passing by,” they told him.

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” cried the blind men.

Then those in front told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord, let me recover my sight!” he replied.

So, Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes. “Your sight is restored,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

And immediately they regained their sight, and began to follow Jesus, praising God. And when they had seen this, all the people gave praise to God.

Zacchaeus Becomes a Follower, Luke 19:1–10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through, and a man named Zacchaeus—chief tax collector, and wealthy—was trying to get a good look at him, but could not do so because of the crowd, for he was a man of short stature. And he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree so that he might see Jesus, for he was to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

Then Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus joyfully.

But when the people saw what happened, they all grumbled, saying, “Now he has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!”

Then Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “Behold, Lord, I am going to give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone unjustly, I will return it fourfold.”

“Salvation has come to this house today,” said Jesus, “for this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Parable of the Minas, Luke 19:11–28

And as they were listening to these things, Jesus told a parable, because he was nearing Jerusalem and they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. And he called ten of his servants and gave them each a mina and said to them, ‘Use this money to trade with until I come back.’

“But the nobleman’s citizens hated him, and after he left, they sent a delegation to say, ‘We do not want this man to be our king.’

“And when he had received his kingdom, he returned and called for the servants to whom he had given the money, so that he might know what they had gained by trading. And the first one came and said, ‘Lord,

your mina has made ten minas.’ And the king said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a little matter, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ And the second servant came and said, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ And the king said to him, ‘You shall be over five cities.’ Then another servant came and said, ‘Lord, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a handkerchief. For I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.’

“‘You wicked servant,’ said the king, ‘I will judge you by your own words. You say that I am a hard man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow. Then why did you not put my money in the bank, so that I could have withdrawn it with interest when I came?’ Then the king said to those standing nearby, ‘Take the mina from him and give it to him who has ten minas.’

“‘But Lord,’ they said, ‘he has ten minas already!’

“‘I say to you,’ replied the king, ‘to everyone who acquires, more will be given; but even what he has will be taken away from him who does not acquire. And as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be their king, bring them here and slay them before me.’”

And having said these things, he journeyed onward toward Jerusalem.

Anointing of Jesus, John 11:55–12:11 (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9)

Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover. And they kept watching for Jesus and saying one to another as they stood around in the temple, “What do you think? Will he dare to come to the feast?”

Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if any man knew where Jesus was, he should tell them, so that they might arrest him.

Now six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom he raised from the dead, and they prepared a supper for him there in the house of Simon the leper. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those who reclined at the table with Jesus. And Mary took a pound of perfume of pure spikenard from an alabaster box, very costly, and anointed the head and the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

“The safest road to hell is the gradual one.”

C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

But one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was planning to betray Jesus), said, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?”

(This he said, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief and, having charge of the purse, was

in the habit of taking money from it.)

But Jesus said, “Let her alone, let her do this in preparation for my burial. For you have the poor with you always, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could in anointing my body. Surely, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, there shall also be this told what she has done, and it will be a memorial for her.”

Now when the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came in great numbers, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. The chief priests therefore agreed among themselves to put Lazarus to death too, for because of him, many of the Jews were turning away from them and believing in Jesus.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 32 (WEDNESDAY MARCH 30)

Majoring on the Minas!

Based on Luke 19:11-28

I remember watching Diane Sawyer interview Billy Graham in 1992. In typical humble and self-deprecating way, the famed evangelist said that he only wanted one person to say something good about him when he died. “I want to hear one person say something nice about me and that’s the Lord. When I face Him, I want Him to say to me, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’ But I’m not sure I’m going to hear it.”

The parable of the minas is similar but different than the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25. In that parable, the stewards were given huge and different amounts of money, based on their abilities. Here, ten laborers received the exact same amount of money, one mina each (about three months of wages).

What was the result? One of the ten earned ten more minas, a 1,000 percent gain (let me invest in that stock!). The second earned five minas, a 500 percent gain (I would even take return!). And one of the ten simply put the money in a handkerchief. When the nobleman returned, he just gave back the \$10,000 mina, and blamed his own laziness on his perception of the harshness of the nobleman. *“I was afraid, because you are a hard man; you take what you do not earn and reap what you did not sow.”*

Like the minas, we are given the exact same number of hours in a day. The parable is measured with a three-month salary, so let us ponder that God has given us all the next three months. What will you do?

In Graham’s interview with Diane Sawyer, he had already completed 380 evangelistic campaigns since 1947, 45 years earlier! He was 73 years old and had no idea when death would come for him. And yet, Dr. Graham continued to use his life and did 37 more evangelistic campaigns, despite failing health and advancing age. He died 25 years later in 2018. His drive to hear his Savior say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,” kept him striving for the Kingdom and the King’s Son, Jesus, to return.

I am of course nowhere near the caliber of Billy Graham, but I was licensed to minister 40 years ago and ordained 30 years ago last May. I fully recognize that I have more years behind me than I do in front of me. But what if I put my “three months ahead of me” into a handkerchief? What if I sat back on the tiny little laurels that I may have and say, *“Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry,”* (Luke 12:19).

I don’t have to look to Billy Graham to answer that question. In this church, we have Bob Chaney, at over 80 years of age, using Zoom to evangelize in the Ukraine. We have Jeff Carrera in his seventh decade of life, equipping pastors in the Philippines to make disciple-makers.

I know this parable of the “minas” has great theological implications and even historical parallels. But the main point of it is, even if you think the Kingdom of God is going to appear *“immediately”*, don’t twiddle your thumbs! Get busy and *“occupy until He comes”* (Luke 19:15, KJV).

God, Your Word says teach us to number our days, but in reality we need to remember that our days are numbered. Help me to not look at how many years I have served You, but how much can I do in the next three months. Let me not compare to what others have but rather look to what You have given me, and use it for Your glory. In Jesus’s Name, Amen.

--By Tim McKeown

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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