God's Calling Requirements Part 41
The Parable of the Ten Pounds

"11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me." (Luke 19:11-27 KJV)

The Lord had the following reasons to give the people this parable that we have read:

First, <u>because He was nigh to Jerusalem as we read in Luke 19:11</u>: The Lord was moving forward towards Jerusalem, to the place that He was to be handed over to be crucified. Therefore He needed to declare His second coming that would take place and how the people would be judged.

Second, <u>because they thought that the Kingdom of God should immediately appear as we read in Luke 19:11</u>: The people had a wrong concept of how the Kingdom of God would appear. They thought the Kingdom of God would appear in a spontaneous irrational manner. Many Christians today think the Kingdom of God will appear like a dream in the night and they would find themselves in it. The parable that Christ gave shows that the Kingdom of God will not appear as something haphazard. Instead, it reveals the deep truth about our responsibility and accountability of what we received as material things from God and its relationship towards the coming event of the appearing of the Kingdom of God. According to Christ's parable, we will be either rewarded or judged with punishment.

"12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return." (Luke 19:12 KJV) "A certain nobleman" refers to our Lord Jesus Christ, who came from Heaven, died, and was buried and rose from the dead on the third day and went to Heaven and was enthroned, and He is now at the right hand of God the Father, and He will come back to judge.

"13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." (Luke 19:13 KJV) Therefore before He went, He called His ten servants and entrusted them with ten pounds in order for them to put it to good use and to work until He will return. One pound was equal to three months wages. *We need to use all what God give us for His service and for His glory.*

The servants who took the ten pounds should have thanked Him and been grateful to Him. But instead of that, they betrayed Him. ***"14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us." (Luke 19:14 KJV)*** We should love the Lord and thank him for all what we received from him and be faithful in using them in a fruitful way.

The question that we are going to ask here is this: "Why did they hate Him and not want Him to be king over their lives? Why do people not want God and His servants to rule over their lives? And how do people not want God and His servants to rule over their lives?"

1. People don't like to be accountable: People love to receive and enjoy what they receive but they don't want to be accountable of their lives and to what they received. They don't want to be accountable to their sins and their actions. Accountability is an important factor to exercise power to be used for the glory of God. God wants us today to be accountable to all what we received and are asked to do.

2. People don't like to be working hard: People are usually lazy and they don't want to work hard. Laziness is one of the crippling sins that lead to poverty. God wants us to work hard and be diligent to do our assignments.

3. People don't like to be scrutinized: People don't want to be scrutinized and questioned about the details of their lives and conduct and be accountable of their material blessings received from God. The Scripture shows us that the church should scrutinize and investigate the lives of dubious members whose lifestyle are questionable. Paul said, ***"11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (Ephesians 5:11 KJV)*** We need to confront church members who live in sin and question their management of material things received from God. Mismanagement of resources is sin and we need to expound it and educate the church and the people under our spiritual care about it.

4. People don't like to be controlled: People don't want to be controlled and hindered from doing their own will. Simply they will say 'Sorry, it's my money, my house, my life, my , my , my ……. Who are you to interfere with my life?' People have many plans and ambitious projects that contradict God's will and God's plan and contradict His Word. Therefore, they hate the Lord who devises His own plans against their wishes and plans. This is here what God asked Jeremiah to speak to the people of God who were doing their own will and plans: ***"11 Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good." (Jeremiah 18:11 KJV)*** The people need to be aware and we as church need to tell them, that the more they pursue their own plans that are against the Lord, the more He will devise plans against them to break their pride and arrogance. We need to educate our people and warn them when we discover their wrong motives in life and in the choices that they make.

As we go through the parable, we can conclude great truths that will make us understand His will, and how He expects us to manage our lives and material things, and how His second coming will take place:

1. The Lord shall force the people to be changed: When the Lord sent His servants and entrusted them with a task, we read in ***Luke 19:14*** that ***"his citizens hated Him,"*** but later on we can see that there were among them who became fruitful and became productive towards the Lord. It means they were changed with the measures taken out by the Lord and with His warning Word when he told in ***Luke 19:13 "Occupy till I come."*** Those people were changed because they knew that they would not be able to change the will of God and they would not be able to oppose the Lord and go against His plan. We need to preach and admonish the people which perhaps will cause them to pay heed to the warning and be changed and got saved.

2. The Lord shall reward the people that had been changed: "15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities." (Luke 19:15-19 KJV) Eternal life with rewards will be the lot of those who comply with God's will and plan and prudently manage their lives and the resources that God had given them.

3. The Lord shall punish the people that are wicked: "27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me." (Luke 19:27 KJV) Eternal fire will be the lot of those who hate God and hate to walk in His ways.

4. The Lord shall judge the people that are not willing to be changed and who are hiding their sins: "20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow." (Luke 19:20-21 KJV) This person pretended to be smart in hiding his sins. He was lazy, selfish, and did not want to work hard, and when he was called to give an account of his material blessings, he put forth several excuses and even blamed the Lord for his non-productivity. People such as those are found in the churches today; they know exactly what God expects of them but they are adamant and unwilling to comply and they use all their might to cover up their sins. They are malingerers who pretend to be sick, disabled, poor or exposed to injustice; shedding crocodile tears and try to get self-pity to cover up their sins. But the Lord will face such kind of people and expose their sins and judge them. The church should exercise discernment in identifying such people and deal with them and their sins.

The Lord faced that wicked servant as we read here, ***"22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow." (Luke 19:22 KJV)*** Therefore, we need to face the people who are bad stewards and bring them under our spiritual care and discipline when we are called to do that.

The Lord even explained to that servant what he should have done. ***"23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?" (Luke 19:23 KJV)*** Therefore we need to explain to those people what they ought to do, and how to handle their finances and their material blessings in their lives and in the lives of their families.

The Lord placed His judgment on that person, He did not reward him and even what he had been given was taken away from him. We need to explain to the people that hiding their sins and abusing the resources of God, that God will bring His judgment on them and even what had been given to them will be taken away, as we read here, ***"24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds." (Luke 19:24 KJV)***

Such kind of people who know God's will, but still conceal their sins inside the church and indulge in material abuse will try to deceive others under the cover of false godliness and innocence. They usually feed on the pity of others in the church, and when such people are judged by God, believers who are deceived by them will pray to God for them and ask the Lord not to take from them what He intends to give to the one that has many as we read the following from the parable. ***"25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)" (Luke 19:25 KJV)***

In every church we will find people pretending to be poor and financially helpless expecting monetary help but never desiring to be transparent or accountable for the help they receive, instead, they spend their finances in wrong ways and indulge in wrong priorities. But the Lord is faithful and will explain to us, His church, and expose the sins of such kind of sinners inside the body of Christ and the ways in which they take advantage of the church and other members. The Lord will not only expose their sins but He will teach us how to handle such kind of people from causing destruction inside the body of Christ.

The Lord will show His justice toward those who are obedient in doing His will and those who are good stewards of the material things that they have received from Him. ***"26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him." (Luke 19:26 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: Let us go again through the message and review these points so we can understand God's will for us and to amend our ways.

1. The Lord shall force the people to be changed.
2. The Lord shall reward the people that had been changed.
3. The Lord shall punish the people that are wicked.
4. The Lord shall judge the people that are not willing to be changed and who are hiding their sins, by taking from them all what He had given them.

You need to understand that you cannot go against His will and plans. Our God is the Lord of Justice, and He will reward those who are faithful and fruitful. Sooner or later you will be exposed and the Lord will deal properly with you and with your sins. Rather therefore be motivated with the reward of the Lord, and repent and be changed so you will be blessed and live a life that pleases God.

This is the time for you to understand and accept that you need to pass through the followings:-

1. ***You need to be accountable.***
2. ***You need to be working hard doing your assignments.***
3. ***You need to be willing to be scrutinized.***
4. ***You need to be controlled by the Lord and His Church.***

Let us pray … .

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly your ways and your will. Lord thank you for all the spiritual and the material blessings that you had given to me. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we have received from you in this message.*

Confess and renounce all your sins and wrong doings. Confess and renounce laziness, complacency, lies, deceiving, ungratefulness, complaining and grumbling, stubbornness, delay obedience, anger, bad stewardship and wasting of resources, doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, your lack of reading God's Word and prayer, and being in bondage with Media, News, games and friends. Lord forgive me I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit my life to the calling that you entrusted to me and will abide to your will. Lord, I commit myself to be a fruitful and productive person in your Kingdom. Lord, I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message to apply in my life and in the life of my ministry. Lord, uphold me with your grace, give me good health and strength and provide for me to continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and committed their lives to live for you and to serve you. Lord I pray for them to be changed by you to do your work and to be fruitful in what you had entrusted to them. Lord provide for them and give them good health and strength to accomplish their ministry and the assignments that you entrusted to them.

Lord I pray for us as a Church of God that we will continue to be faithful to you; serving you wholeheartedly and using all resources fruitfully and making the most of all the opportunities. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more Bible studies and congregations to be planted and more workers to be trained. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and more disciples to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations, workers and members. Lord prepare us for your coming to be ready to go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

God's Calling Requirements Part 41. The Parable of the Ten Pounds. Luke 19:11-27. Ephesians 5:11. Jeremiah 18:11.

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