

Introduction

1. During this month I've been away things not gone very well in country have they?
 - a. 1st week Supreme Court made same-sex marriage law of land. Sister's pastor felt sad.
 - i. Best analysis I read is this is battle between Sexual Revolution & Christianity.
 - ii. Not primarily Democrat/Republican or Conservative/Liberal, but license vs. Christian.
 - iii. Sexual Revolution always wanted no restrictions on conduct. Christianity says NO.
 - iv. *Real battle ground is against God, Christ, H.S., Bible, the church, and the gospel.*¹
 - v. So Christianity must be pressured, harassed, beat back & made to compromise.
 - vi. At July 4 parade 1st time saw Gay Pride marchers in parade complete w/drag queens.
 - vii. Mentioned to Ellen. Someone confirmed. Later saw drag queens at Food Festival.
 - viii. All out in open now and encouraged by this new law. Not end, only the beginning.
 - ix. *Evil people & impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving, being deceived.* See:
 - x. 2Tim 3:13. Shudder think what kids/grand witness as this Sex. Rev. goes bad to worse.
 - b. Last week learned Planned Parenthood harvesting organs from aborted babies.
 - i. Was 14-yrs-old when Supreme Court made abortion-on-demand law of land.
 - ii. Argument was not increase abortion just allow poor women avoid back alleys.
 - iii. 1-in-4 women abortion; 55mil since 1973; harvesting organs to sell for decades.
 - iv. *Heart has value; lungs have value; liver has value; child has no value.*² Best word →
 - v. *Worst crime is infanticide; now have infanticide for profit.*³ New low. Tax-funded.
 - vi. What's worse than infanticide? Harvesting the organs; selling them for profit.
 - vii. Spokesman of major party in our Capital Rotunda said they breaking no laws.⁴
 - viii. Who's law? Many leaders can't think straight anymore. Up is down; Down is up.
 - ix. Isa. 5:20: *Woe call evil good, good evil, darkness/light, light/darkness, bitter/sweet.*
2. This is where at today. What does Bible say about this? (Title/Text)
 - a. Jesus told a parable to give us the answer. Turn to Luke 19:11. Never got past.
 - b. Constantly that Jesus establish kingdom, defeat enemies, usher in Jewish golden age.
 - c. As neared Jerusalem during Passover reminded of great deliverance over Egypt.
 - d. Expected miraculous powers, angelic army, Son of David occupy throne. Instead,
 - e. Jesus arrested, mock trial, cruelly tortured, murdered on Roman cross. Followers hiding.
 - f. In 37 yrs Romans would crush Israel, rivers of Jewish blood flow, nation scattered wind.
 - g. All that hoped for their country would come to ruin. What now? Feel like that.
 - h. Hoped so much better. Instead, *America has turned its back on God.*⁵ What now?

I. Jesus' kingdom is delayed, not canceled, v. 12.

A. Historical Background.

1. Background of parable very familiar to Jews. Both Herod Grt & Archelaus, son did this.
 - a. Traveled to Rome become vassal-kings over parts of Israel. Receiving rule, returned.

¹ John MacArthur, "We Will Not Bow." <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-425/we-will-not-bow>. Accessed 7/25/15.

² Words of a pro-life congressman addressing the congress watched on Fox News.

³ Stephen Hayes. Fox News Contributor speaking on *Special Report with Brett Baier*.

⁴ Sen. Harry Reid, minority spokesman for Democratic Party; watched on Fox News.

⁵ Franklin Graham recent newsletter for *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*. 7/2/15

- b. Archelaus had palace near Jericho so people easily remembered these events.
- 2. *Nobleman* = Jesus; *Far country* = heaven; *Went* = death, resurrection, ascension
- 3. *Return* = Jesus gone for long time before establish His earthly kingdom.

B. Jesus' Point.

- 1. Jesus' point was that there would be a delay before His kingdom would fully come.
 - a. All of this was in God's plan & part of God's purposes for the world.
 - b. Jesus will not exercise His full authority until He comes again.
- 2. Many Christians are rightly discouraged over what may be coming next.
 - a. *I believe God can send revival, but must honestly say don't see it happening.*⁶
 - b. *Spare us God; don't judge us.*⁷ Never heard Christian leaders talk like that before.
 - c. Times = vry serious. Should plead for America, but delay should NOT discourage us.
- 3. One of mistakes often make is identifying a specific nation with God's Kingdom.
 - a. America many believers greatly influenced by God's kingdom. America not kingdom.
 - b. Kingdom of God in 2 stages. 1000yr reign when Jesus comes again = Lord's Prayer.
 - c. Spiritual kingdom in hearts/lives of believers worldwide. Lk. 17:21; Jn. 18:36.
 - d. Believe God already judging us. America needs God, but God does not need America.
 - e. If continue turning our back and God let's us go; His kingdom work will go on.

C. Why Jesus Allowing this Delay?

- 1. Giving people chance to repent/receive as Savior/Lord. Look at His full authority, v. 27.
 - a. Jesus is patient, long-suffering, not wanting any perish. Look at heart, v. 10.
 - b. Jesus loves drag-queens down at Food Fest. Wants repent & saved. Delay = grace.

II. **Believers are to serve Jesus during the delay, vv. 13-15.**

A. What Is the *Mina*?

- 1. Doesn't refer to talents or gifts. Those differ. Don't all have same gifts, resources.
- 2. A *mina* = 3 months' wages for a laborer.⁸ Capital/Treasure = gospel of salvation.
 - a. *Pearl of great price; hidden treasure*, Matt. 13:44-45.
 - b. *Engage in business = invest in the gospel*. Read Luke 12:32-35.
 - c. We must invest the investment Christ has made in us! We are to multiply our spiritual capital—invest the gospel—increase the yield of the good news of salvation through Christ! This is not a matter of gifts but of investment.⁹
 - d. Get gospel to lost; help believers grow; pursue spiritual growth & likeness to Christ.
 - e. No matter how dark it gets during this delay, invest in of our opportunities.
 - f. Miles and some youth taken VBS over near Two-heart. God bless them.

B. Expect Hatred & Opposition, v. 14.

- 1. This happened w/Archelaus. Jews hated him and sent delegation to Rome to protest.
- 2. This would happen to Jesus and to His followers. *Hated* = *were hating*. See Jn 15:18-25.

⁶ Irwin Lutzer at session on Revival at Moody Pastor's Conference a few years ago.

⁷ Crawford Lorritts at same session with Lutzer.

⁸ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2001). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, Luke 19:13, note 2.

⁹ Hughes, R. K. (1998). *Luke: that you may know the truth* (pp. 231–232). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

3. **As evil dominates more and more we can expect hatred to rise more and more.**
 - a. We find ourselves in a world that is less friendly to the church and more than ever disconnected from the Bible....Every courageous pastor who speaks the truth is under the gun. He is in the direct line of fire from the adversary, who would like nothing more than to ruin his reputation or, preferably, take him out...*Pray for your pastor!* He needs it more than you can imagine.¹⁰
4. **Acts 18:9-11 is one of my biggest encouragements. That's what need today, v. 9.**
- C. **Expect to Give Jesus an Accounting, v. 15.**
 1. We are going to give an account for what we've done for Jesus during this delay.
 2. Happen after Rapture when stand before Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:10.
 3. When I was a boy it seemed like Christians took this accounting very seriously.
 - a. Pastor say not want be found doing anything he'd be ashamed of in front of Jesus.
 - b. That is very biblical. 1 John 2:28. The way Christians have historically thought.
 4. Gamble casino w/God's money; drink at tavern influence others; out of sorts w/brother?
 5. This has been huge, motivating factor for Christians. Impelled them do best for Jesus.
 6. Why should this be so powerful in our lives? 3rd expectation.

III. Jesus will have the final word, vv. 16-27.

- A. **Hostile Enemies – Eternal Destruction, v. 27.**
- B. **False Servants – Eternal Loss, vv. 20-26.**
- C. **Faithful Servants – Eternal Rewards, vv. 16-19.**
 1. Every Christian have the chance to earn greatest rewards. Not limited to super talented.
 - a. It is what we have done w/life & resources we've been given that Jesus will reward.
 - b. Someone w/lesser talent & lesser resources if gave best to Jesus greatest reward.
 - c. The greatest rewards that will ever come to churches or to men will be bestowed, not according to the greatness of the strength they had, or the greatness of the opportunity as it appeared to men, but according to faithfulness to opportunity, and full use of the measure of strength possessed.¹¹
 2. Can all = 10 mina Christians. *Little widows tennis shoes \$10 rewarded more than him.*¹²
 3. Jesus will be far more generous in rewarding us than anyone can imagine.
 - a. Turning one mina into 10 minas = 1000% return. Not an astronomical amount.
 - b. 10 cities? 10 cities to rule over for that? Jesus will be lavish in rewards.
 - c. *If I am going to heaven, won't that be good enough. Why care about rewards?*¹³
 - d. We should care first because we want to give our best to Jesus.
 - e. We should care because Jesus wants to give us greatest rewards He can give.
 4. Sometimes very evil that exists is used by God to awaken people to their need.
 - a. Have relative moved to NY to live in sexual immorality w/girlfriend. Christian homes.
 - b. Grandmother, my aunt, pled w/him not to do it. Don't know how resisted pleadings?
 - c. Shortly after moved to NY, 9/11 happened. So shook up girl, moved back home.
 - d. Only good thing I know that came out of 9/11. God got her attention.
 - e. God is so powerful can use even evil to turn people around & back to Him.

¹⁰ Chuck Swindoll, *The Church Awakening; An Urgent Call for Renewal*, pp. 36-37.

¹¹ G. Campbell Morgan, Ritzema, E., & Vince, E. (Eds.). (2013). *300 quotations for preachers from the Modern church*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

¹² Billy Graham has said this about widows who gave \$10 per month to him and their rewards in doing so.

¹³ Man in my home church actually said that.