

THE BIG IDEA: The mission of Jesus shifts us from making our lives safe to making our lives count

The Take-Off

Last week we started a new series - SHIFT - and we talked about making the shift from cop to coach

We looked at the story of Zacchaeus and we saw that when the presence of Jesus invades our lives, we find ourselves shifting from required to desired - if you remember, Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus resulted in him doing far more than even Jesus expected or asked of him

The shift for the people was that their problem was actually Jesus' purpose - **Luke 19:10**

On the tails of that encounter and Jesus' statement about the mission, we find the next shift

Let's talk about the story first and then we'll get to the shift

1. The story

- a. Let's read it / **Luke 19:11-27**
- b. First, why is Jesus even telling it? The answer is in the first verse: to correct when they thought His kingdom would begin
- c. They were thinking (hoping) right away, but Jesus knew it wouldn't be
- d. Second, what's the context? **Luke 19:10** / Jesus had told them His mission, and now He was going to clarify how He expected His mission to become theirs
- e. The nobleman is Jesus
 - He was going to be returning to heaven to be crowned King / **Philippians 2:9-11**
 - He was going to be rejected as King on earth
 - He is going to return to earth as King
- f. If you're a follower of Jesus, then you're one of the 10 servants
 - We've been given something / 1 mina = 3 months wages = approx. \$12,000
 - We've been told something / "invest this for me while I am gone"
 - We'll be accountable to something / verse 15 / **the King will inspect what He's asked us to invest**
- g. First 2 were commended and rewarded
- h. Third was judged and rejected
- i. I don't want to be presumptuous and speak for you, but I doubt many of us are aspiring to be like the 3rd!
- j. I believe that we find a shift here that can enable us to be the faithful servants instead of the fearful one

2. The shift

- a. The shift is from maintaining to multiplying
- b. Here's why this shift is so critical: it has everything to do NOW while we wait for the return of our King
- c. This shift impacts how we live our lives, how we see church, how we see our purpose
- d. Once again, I've made **a comparison chart** just to help us highlight the shift
 - Defensive vs Offensive / Playing not to lose vs Playing to win **Matt. 11:12** "take it" (NIV)
 - My church vs His kingdom
 - Collects resources vs Invests resources
 - Delay causes fear vs Delay causes focus (**2 Peter 3:15; Eph. 5:15-17**) (The longer He waits, the more we might lose vs The longer He waits, the more we might win)
 - Insulated vs Celebrated / "Well done!"
 - Resources are taken vs Authority is given (takes the mina but gives cities!)
 - Values seating capacity vs Values sending capacity (**Matt. 28:19** / "all nations" won't fit here; we must go there)
- e. What we learn from this story is that giving back to the King what the King gave us is not a win.
- f. The King wants more
- g. Listen to these words from **2 Peter 3:9** - all men everywhere!
- h. He wants multipliers, not maintainers
- i. Sure, this is a story about resources, but make no mistake: **Jesus isn't looking for money managers; He's looking for Kingdom leaders**

The Landing

Here's the bottom line: we've believed the lie that the Christian life is a safe life.

We do everything we can to protect ourselves while forgetting that He is our protector, and so we take this life that He's given us - the ONE LIFE we've got - and we start to protect it.

Just like the man with the silver, we start to do whatever it takes to lose nothing, and in the end we find that we will have lost everything.

We wrap our lives in bubble wrap and then we tell God, "Ok. Use me!"

God's like, "Use you? I can't even get to you!"

But He does want to use us - me and you - in His plan to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth

This may seem like a harsh word, but the truth is that it's a compassionate, attention-getting and direction-altering word that allows us to take inventory of our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word to a sword, and today, the power of that Word is going to cut through your protective coating and set you free so that you can say "yes" to the mission of Jesus, because **the mission of Jesus shifts us from making our lives safe to making our lives count.**

Let's pray.