

# Being a Faithful Steward

**TEXT:** Luke 19:12-28

**KEY VERSE:** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. — 1 Peter 4:10

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** 1 Chronicles 29:1-17

Jesus told the parable about the nobleman who was to go away, become a king, and return. This was one of Jesus' last teachings to His disciples, taking place just before His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and less than a week before His crucifixion. Christ's purpose was to educate His disciples regarding His departure to Heaven, their responsibility to carry on His work after He went away, and His eventual return. Our study will concentrate on our responsibility as Christ's disciples to be faithful in using what He has given us for His service.

1. The word *nobleman* means "person of noble blood, usually princely." Give evidence as to whom you think the nobleman represents in this parable. See Hebrews 12:2.

2. The word *servant* is translated from the Greek word *doulos* which can mean "slave, bondman, or servant of a king." In the New Testament epistles, *doulos* often denotes "one who gives himself up wholly to another's will, or dominion." With these facts in mind, identify whom the servants in this parable represent.

3. The nobleman had ten servants. Each servant was given one pound. List the various gifts or talents which you think the pounds might represent. Refer to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11,28.

4. Paraphrase the nobleman's statement to his ten servants, "Occupy till I come."

5. Who are the citizens referred to in verses 14 and 27 of our lesson? How would you support this conclusion?

6. Verse 15 tells us that having received his kingdom and returned, the nobleman called his servants to determine how much each man had gained by trading. Describe some of the "gains" one can experience in working for the Lord.

7. Verses 20-26 deal with the other servant and his great error. Identify this error and interpret its meaning.

8. The nobleman, in verse 17, pronounced the servant whose pound had gained ten pounds as "faithful." Consider and note several actions which we could take to ensure a reward in eternity as a faithful steward of Jesus Christ.