



# **RISE UP**

Challenging men to live up to God's calling!

**Rise up and engage!**

**Luke 19:11-26**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on August 19, 2023**



**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Rise up and engage!

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## Opening Comments

- Today we continue our Men's Ministry series: **RISE UP: Challenging men to live up to God's calling!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer.
- Turn in your Bibles to **Luke 19**
- The foundation for our teaching this morning is one of Jesus' parables.
- Jesus had proven to many that He was the long-awaited Messiah.
- **Luke 19:11**
- This parable is a response to the belief by some that since the Messiah had come the Kingdom of God was coming immediately.
- **Luke 19:12**
- Not only is the kingdom not coming immediately, but the Messiah is also going away. **John 14:1-3**

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- Jesus had made it clear to His disciples that he was leaving to go back to His Father in heaven.
- Understandably, that bothered the disciples.
- They expected the Messiah to establish God's kingdom on earth like David's kingdom 1,000 years earlier.
- How can Jesus establish a kingdom if He is going away?
- We know that Jesus, in His first advent, did not come to establish His kingdom at that time.
- Jesus will do that at His second advent or coming.
- He came, not to establish His earthly kingdom, but to make a way for anyone who would believe to be a part of His kingdom.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He made the only way for someone to be a part of His kingdom. **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- This parable in Luke 19 is meant to correct their wrong thinking on the topic of when Christ will establish his earthly kingdom.
- **Luke 19:13**
- The ‘nobleman’ is Jesus.
- Once Jesus finished His work on the earth, He returned to the Father in heaven and is waiting for the Father to give Him the kingdom.
- We don’t know when that will be. **Mark 13:32**  
**But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**
- Jesus didn’t come to establish His righteous kingdom here on the earth.
- He came to save us from our sins.
- Jesus did establish something before He left. **Matthew 16:18**  
**And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**
- Jesus established the church and gave it a mission. **Matthew 28:18-20**  
**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.**
- The church can be viewed three ways.
- First there is the universal church, all believers everywhere since Christ died and was resurrected.
- Its mission is what Jesus describes in Matthew 28.
- Then there is the local church, like CCFV.
- The mission of the local church is to determine how to fulfill the mission of the universal church within the local community.
- And third, the church can be viewed as each individual believer. **1 Corinthians 3:16**  
**Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?**
- Since the universal church and the local church have a role to play in the world, so does the individual believer.
- Every believer is to discover how to engage with the mission of the local church as it engages in the mission of the universal church.
- That brings us back to our text.

- **Luke 19:13**

- A ‘mina’ is worth about three months’ salary.
- Ten servants and they each get one mina.
- They are told to do business until the nobleman returns.

- **Luke 19:15-19**

- The first servant has a 1,000 percent gain on the nobleman’s money.
- The second servant gets a 500 percent gain.
- Both are rewarded proportionally to the gain they received.
- Then another servant steps forward to give an accounting to the nobleman.

- **Luke 19:20-26**

- This servant did nothing with what was given to him except protect it from being lost.
- That wasn’t good enough for the noblemen, because it wasn’t what he told the servant to do.
- Obedience is not doing what we think is right – obedience is doing what God said.
- Jesus established the church and gave it a mission – He told it to do business until He returns.
- The business of the church is making disciples and teaching them to obey Jesus.
- That is the business of the universal church, the local church, and each individual believer.

- He didn’t give us all minas to do that work. **1 Corinthians 12:7**

**But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...**

- The manifestation of the Spirit is spiritual gifts.
- God has given something to every believer for the purpose of the universal church, the local church, and that believer to fulfill their mission.

- And God did more than just give us spiritual gifts. **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- Too many Christians are like the third servant in our parable.
- They have the spiritual resources to serve God and there is a good work God has called them to.

- But they are content to simply ‘put it away in a handkerchief’ rather than get engaged to serve their Master as He created them to do.
- This is especially tragic when it is a man.
- A man that does not engage makes it hard for anyone God has ordained to follow that man to engage.
- Guys, we can look around at this world and see that it is getting darker, eviler, and desperately wicked.
- We might think it is hopeless and imagine there is nothing we can do about anything.
- The last couple of years has been hard on churches and believers.
- Engagement in the mission of the church has dropped off dramatically.
- As I understand Scripture, it is always too early to disengage in the work of the gospel of Christ Jesus.
- We are called to be engaged in the work with the gifts God gave us until Jesus returns.
- How do we do that? How do we engage?
- First, we engage with God.
- The two primary ways we do that are prayer and the Word.
- To engage in whatever specific way God created us to, we must first engage with God by talking to Him in prayer and getting to know Him and His plan for this world in His Word.
- Otherwise, we might be doing works, but they are not the good works God created us to do.
- At some point in my faith journey I discovered six words that I long to hear from Jesus when I get to heaven, ‘well done, good and faithful servant’.
- To hear those words, I must be engaged with God, first, and then everywhere else He directs me.
- The second place we should be engaged in good works of faith is within our circles of influence.
- Your circles of influence are your marriage, your family, your community, your work, your hobbies, your special interest groups, anywhere in your life where a group gathers, and you are involved.

- That doesn't mean you are the leader in all those things, but if you are involved, then you are able to influence that group toward Christ and His good works.
- Engage with God and engage with your circles of influence.
- The last one for today, engage with your local church.
- Listen, I am talking to guys who are at the Men's Breakfast on a Saturday morning.
- You are engaged, at least when there is bacon involved.
- The question is, are you engaged enough to help the church fulfill its mission?
- Now don't worry, the church will not fail if you don't get engaged.
- But it won't be as effective as it could be, it won't reach as far as it could, and God won't be glorified as much as He should be.
- Men of God should be engaged in the work of the local church.
- There are several ways you can do that.
- First, be committed and faithful to the church.
- That means, be consistent in your attendance and participation.
- Things like Men's study – every Saturday at 7.
- Second, be generous in your giving to your church.
- We don't like to talk about money in church, but many of the good works we might want to do requires money.
- Your generosity helps us do more for the Lord and for His gospel.
- Third, encourage others to be committed, faithful, and generous.
- As with most things in our faith, the choice is yours.
- You can either get engaged and further the work Christ left for the church to do.
- Or you can hide your gifts in a handkerchief and wait for Jesus to come back.
- An opportunity to get engaged is coming.
- I am in the process of reviewing a teaching series on the topic of engagement.
- It is by Del Tackett, who did the Truth Project.
- His new teaching is the Engagement Project.

- Guys, Jesus could be back at any moment, or He might not be back in our lifetimes.
- Regardless, we are all commanded to be busy doing His work until He comes and gets us.
- It is my desire for myself, and everyone in my circles of influence would love God and serve Him faithfully and be worthy of hearing from the lips of Jesus, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’
- And then receive the invitation to enter His glory.
- Guys, we need to be engaged, not in the things of this lost world, but in those things that are eternal – the things of the kingdom of God.
- Rise up men of God and engage!
- **Let’s pray!**