

Message Summary

Ambition is that driving zeal that makes us strive with vigor, passion, and excellence toward a goal we love. We are ambitious people in the things we treasure the most, whether sports, education, family, career, etc. While it can easily be misguided, ambition is ultimately a good, created by God to compel us toward kingdom productivity. Between His first and second comings, God has entrusted to each of us time, talents, resources, and relationships to ambitiously pursue the spread of His kingdom. One day we will give an account for how we have used them.

Jesus illustrates His design for our ambition in the parable of a nobleman, a king, who sets out on a journey and promises to return. The nobleman entrusts a mina – several thousand dollars in today’s currency – to ten servants with the command to engage in business. At his return, the nobleman calls each servant to account. One servant returned 10 minas from the one, and another 5. Still a third, fearing that his master was too harsh, only guarded his mina and returned it to the master. The first two servants’ faithfulness yielded eternal rewards that dwarfed earthly goods – ten and five cities, respectively. But the servant who did nothing with his mina lost it entirely.

The gospel doesn’t kill our ambition – it redirects and rescues our ambition to be used for greater kingdom purposes. The parable reminds us that God calls us to more than safe and moral living – He calls us to lay down our lives daily for the spread and advance of the gospel. Such obedience is most often expressed in normal, day-to-day living, by which we use the everyday opportunities before us to spread the kingdom. Whatever we do, we work for the king. Though the parable mentions ten servants receiving minas, it only records three servants’ responses. The story leaves the destiny of the remaining seven open, perhaps to remind us that we, too, have been entrusted with minas and our story is yet to be written. Which of the three servants actions will we fall into? The story ends with a chilling account of those who rejected the king’s lordship over them being killed. We, too, would be killed with these servants for our lack of kingdom ambition. But Luke’s gospel ends with Christ Himself killed on our behalf, and resurrected to share his life and victory to all who trust in Christ in the gospel for the fuel and goal of our lives.

WHY IT MATTERS

Digging Deeper

The two servants who engaged in business were rewarded, but the servant who kept his mina for safekeeping was condemned. Is risk right? What is the place of risk for the Christian life? What is the difference, if any, between risk and irresponsibility?

How did the third servant’s perspective of the nobleman’s character (“a severe man,” v. 21) impact the way he used his mina? How does our perspective of God drive our kingdom ambition?

What is Christ’s ambition? How was Christ’s life the ultimate example of ambition in the in between?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

Group Discussion & Application

Use the following questions to examine what the sermon and its text mean, to apply the Word to your life, and to guide how you pray. Please note that you don’t have to use all of the questions. These are just options (along with the digging deeper section) to help you frame the family/small group discussion.

1. Where is your ambition directed today? How can you work this week to ensure it is directed toward kingdom purposes and not worldly ends?

2. What “minas” (time, talents, resources, relationships, and opportunities) has God entrusted to you for His kingdom? How can you be more faithful in directing them toward kingdom ends?
3. Are you prone towards unwarranted fear and safekeeping?
4. Do you tend to think of the Christian life as empty moralism or zealous stewardship?
5. Do you view your everyday responsibilities and routines as chores to get through or opportunities to work for the King?
6. Are you content and faithful with the “minas” God has given you today, or do you waste opportunities today hoping for different opportunities tomorrow?
7. How can you garnish kingdom opportunities in your full-time vocation this week?

Prayer

- ! Pray for Our Church:
 - o Thank God for Christ’s perfect ambition to rescue us from sin and present to the Father worshippers from every tribe, tongue, and nation
 - o Pray that the Lord would give our church contentment and faithfulness with exactly the minas He has entrusted to us

- ! Pray for Our Community:
 - o Pray that the Lord would fill our church with ambition for the responsibilities and opportunities we engage in every day
 - o Pray that the Lord would give the people of Gadsden a desire for more ambition and greater opportunities for faithfulness than this life affords, and that this hunger would drive them to the gospel

- ! Pray for Our World:
 - o Pray for Sunday night prayer meetings, that our prayer through the book of Acts would use our prayers for gospel advancement, locally and abroad. Pray also that this would be a time of equipping and calling for more laborers to the harvest field (Acts 13:1-3)
 - o Pray for the Fairchilds as they prepare for the mission field, that they would rest well, be as prepared as possible, and have wisdom as to the timing of their return

Recommended Resources:

Dave Harvey, *Rescuing Ambition*