

## Weekly Study Guide

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

MONDAY: Read our Parable from Sunday: Luke 19:11-26. What is the most troubling part of the parable for you? What is your normal pattern when you encounter something in scripture, you're not comfortable with? Do you ignore it and move on to something you are comfortable with? Do you dig for information that might shed some insight? What might Jesus hope our discomfort response would be?

TUESDAY: Herod the Great died in 4 B.C. and his son Archelaus was to take over Judea. The people of the area sent a delegation to Caesar to ask that it not happen. The story would have been well known in Jesus' time and he uses that familiar knowledge to set up his parable. What message would the first hearers of Jesus' parable glean from such a connection? Read the parable again knowing that it was a very familiar circumstance and see what God draws up in you.

WEDNESDAY: Imbedded in this parable is the biblical understanding that we will stand before God and give an account of our life. Heaven and Hell might not be on the line but it could still be quite uncomfortable if we have been phoning in our faith so to speak. Read Revelation 3:14-22. Notice that the passage ends the way many parables do. How would you characterize Jesus' love for us in verse 19? Does your love of others follow Jesus' pattern?

THURSDAY: What does this parable say that couldn't be said in another way? Read it again. Is it the connection that comes through the hyperbole? If the extreme judgment at the end is meant to get our attention rather than to characterize God's disposition toward us to what is Jesus wanting to draw our attention to? Have you ever used an 'over the top' example to make a point? Why? Why not use a 'not over the top' example?

FRIDAY: If Jesus was hoping for some watercooler talk after the interaction what questions do you think he would be hoping for? What would be the difference if Jesus simply spoke to people's questions before they asked? What would your question be? Spend the next 24 hours prayerfully asking your question to God. Just keep asking, knowing that you are heard and see if God points you in a direction to address your question.