

The Great Teacher finished talking about storing up treasures in heaven by telling us that where our treasure is, there our heart would be also¹. Then He told a parable that described the heart itself as a treasure².

“A certain man was planning to live for a time in a certain area, and he who went to several people that he knew and entrusted to each of them valuable treasures, calling them “minas”. The value of each mina varied somewhat with respect to the perceived personality of each recipient.

He said, ‘Take good care of what I have given you. I offer it with love, friendship, and service. Use it, and benefit from it as much as you can. After some time I will meet with you all again and see how our relationship has grown.’ He did this because he knew that true friends would invest the gift so that its value would increase.

“After a long time the man visited each friend to see how they had taken care of his gift and to review the growth of their relationship.

One recipient who had received a single mina showed how he had invested in it so that it returned “interest” ‘Friend,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with your heart, and see how our relationship has grown! “The other man replied, ‘Well done! You have been faithful and from a small beginning you have become a good friend! We can now share our joy!’

“Another man, who had received five minas, showed how he had gained even greater success. ‘Friend,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with your heart, and our relationship has grown by leaps and bounds! “The other man replied, ‘Well done! You have become a good and faithful friend! We can now share our joy!’

“Then the woman who had received his most valuable possession of ten minas, said, ‘I knew that you are good man, but I got sick and tired of hearing other people talk about it. And you didn’t treat me with the royal attitude that I deserved! So I went out and stuffed your pitiful little gift in small box and hid it in the ground. I’m not telling you where I put it either – you will just have to find it yourself! I mean to cast you out into utter darkness, where you will be isolated and ruined!’

“The man replied, ‘You obviously had no desire to have a relationship with me, and should never have even accepted my gift! You have attempted to exile me because you think that I did not give you proper reverence! I suffer a great loss here, but I will at least find my own and take it back!’

He told his true friends, “I was a full-service provider, but this woman kept my treasure a small box. Such mistreatment is simply amazing!”

In a few months he found the box and the ten minas were back in his possession. Then he said to his friends, ‘I will give these to someone who has none.’ The person he selected was of great character and was advocated by some of his friends, but others said, “Why give them to her who has none of the minas at all?”

The Teacher then said, “Whoever accepts someone’s heart without reservation will be given more, and they will have an abundance. And those who reject strong relationships with others will find themselves very sorrowful and in the dark alone. So open your heart freely to those who are around you.³”

Christ exposed His heart on the cross and it was pierced for us. In doing that He offers His spiritual heart to all of us. It is not always well received. Think about Christ’s consideration of the great love that Jonathon had for King David, who also suffered betrayal by his own son Absalom. Consider the love that Christ tried to inspire in His disciples, and His ultimate betrayal by Judas.

Finally consider: Do we invest His heart – or bury it?

1. Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:32-34
2. See the parables in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-26
3. see 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

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