

1. Review – Themes

- Faithful Stewardship (of what?)
  - Wealth
  - Soul/Life
  - Faith
  - Word of God (Bible)
- Fear vs. Love
- Return of King
- Priests – do not want Jesus to be king (Messiah or Christ)
- God’s word

2. Luke 19:11-27:

3. **Common theme** in ancient storytelling – what are you doing with the resources that have been given to you?

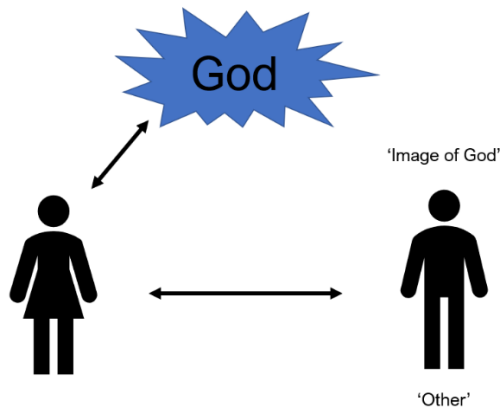
- Responsible living is the highest priority. The world will wipe you out if you are not fully awake and using all your resources.
- Aesop’s Fable – **The Miser and His Gold**<sup>1</sup> -
- “A possession is worth no more than what we make of it.”
- Milo Winter, “*Aesop for Children*”
- Rembrandt, “*Parable of the Hidden Treasure*”

4. **Fear vs. Love:** is your relationship with God based on fear or love?

- The “wicked servant” acts out of fear. Fear paralyzes us. We don’t act.
- God wants a relationship of love (goodness, forgiveness, mercy) that allows you to take risks freely.

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<sup>1</sup> Library of Congress. Aesop Fables no. 112, The Miser. <http://read.gov/aesop/112.html>



‘God’ vs Our ‘Image of God’

1. Is our image of God base on fear?
2. We reflect whatever we worship
3. Our view of God directly affects our view of ‘other’
4. Greatest commandment – Deut. 6:4 and Leviticus 19:18.

5. Exodus 34:6-7

Positive	Negative
Compassionate (v. 6) (Hebrew word for ‘womb’)	- does not leave the guilty unpunished (v. 7)
Gracious (v. 6)	
Slow to Anger (v. 6)	
Abounding in love and faithfulness (v. 6)	
Maintaining love (v. 7)	
Forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. (v. 7)	

- As we walk with God over a long period of time we experience first hand God’s graciousness, compassion, and forgiveness since we are also sinners (“There by the grace of God go I,” John Bradford)

- if God is gracious towards us, *how much more* will he be gracious towards others.

6. Light and Heavy – *Qal v’homer*

- ‘light and heavy’ is a Rabbinic teaching and interpretational technique
- Credited to the famous Rabbi Hillel (60 BCE – 20 CE?)
- What applies in a lesser case will apply even more in a more important case
- Phrase – “how much more...”
- Luke 11:13
- 1 Cor. 6:2-3

- if the servants in the parable are expected to be faithful to the **wicked** would-be king

- *how much more...*

- should we be faithful to a king (God or Jesus) who is **good!**