

“THE LEADER’S ATTITUDE”

Matthew 19:27-10:16 (Maintaining A Healthy Spirit In The Ministry)

Text: “Then answered Peter and said unto Him (Jesus), behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; **what shall we have therefore?** (Or, what’s in it for us?) (Matthew 19:27)

Question: What causes a leader to “sour” in spirit?

Question: What causes a leader’s wife to “feel injured” and withdraw from people?

Question: What causes many church workers to “feel cheated” and “taken advantage of”?

Question: What causes a leader to resent district or sectional leadership?

Question: How is it possible to do God’s work (with our hands) and yet be out of God’s will (in our heart)?

Question: What’s the difference between a “called” leader and a “chosen” leader?

Question: What’s the root cause of a complaining spirit?

Question: Why is a guardrail at the top of the cliff better than a hospital at the bottom of the cliff?

Introduction To Our Text

1. Jesus had often seen laborers in the marketplace.
2. The labors would gather early in the morning.
3. Employers would then hire them for the day.
4. The laborers would be paid a denarius at the day’s end.
5. And, Jesus had seen much haggling over wages (as people complained at the end of the day).

Now Remember

- Jesus is not talking about salvation (for nobody works for salvation, nor would anyone complain about another’s salvation)
- Jesus is not talking about rewards (for everyone’s reward will be different, based upon their own faithfulness and service).
- Jesus is talking about attitude in our service (He reveals to us an attitude that will destroy any would be servant).

The Setting Is Clear (In Matthew 19:16-30)

A. The Man (v. 16-22)

- ◆ The rich young man rejected the call to surrender all and follow Jesus.
- ◆ The man then went away in great disappointment.

B. The Money (v. 23-26)

- ◆ Jesus then warned his disciples against the snare of riches.
- ◆ Jesus reveals the negative effects that riches can have on someone’s spiritual life.

C. The Mess (v. 27-30)

- ◆ Peter responds to Jesus’ warning in a carnal way.
- ◆ Peter had forsaken all (so he thought) and he asks “**What am I going to get?**” (v. 27)
- ◆ And, Jesus detecting a dangerous attitude in Peter’s heart, gives us the parable to protect us from ruin.

(Three Attitudes To Guard Against)

I. We must guard against bargaining with God!

Fact: The owner of the vineyard needed to get his harvest in before the rains.

Fact: He went to the labor pool and recruited some workers.

Fact: He encountered a large harvest, needed more workers and came back to hire some at 9:00 am, noon, 3:00 pm and 5:pm.

(Two Kinds Of Laborers)

1. The men hired early in the morning wouldn't work until they knew how much they would be paid (v. 2,13) (The owner agreed on a denarius a day).
2. The other men had no contract, but trusted the owner to give what was right.(v.4)
 - ◆ They trusted in the owner's word and his character.

(The Lesson)

Fact: The owner pays the men in reverse order, starting with the last workers hired. **(Why?)**
To show the 6:00 am workers how generous he was to employees without a contract.

Fact: When the early workers saw the 5:00 pm workers receive one denarius for one hour, they thought they would receive 12 denarius for their 12 hours worked.

Fact: But all the men received one denarius, and the men complained.

Fact: They argued with the master who addresses them in verse 13 and declares: "You received exactly what you had bargained for early in the morning."

Thus: The parable applies to Peter because:

1. Peter wanted to know what he was going to get.
2. Peter was signing a contract with the Lord in his heart.
3. Peter was told by Jesus; "Beware Peter, you will get what you bargain for." (You better just trust Me to give you what is right.)

(In Other Words)

- A. Refuse to make bargains with God.
- B. Allow God to take care of the contracts and rewards.
- C. Never be fearful of the will of God, for God will provide if we are faithful.
 - ◆ Merchandising is when I empty other people to enrich myself.
 - ◆ Ministry is when I empty myself to enrich other people.

II. We must guard against beholding other people.

"It is not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good." (v. 15)

Fact: Peter had seen the rich young ruler walk away from Jesus.

Fact: Peter had compared his possessions with the rulers.

Fact: Peter's attitude was poor because he was watching, judging and drawing conclusions.

Question: What happens to us when we get our eyes off the Lord and start watching other believers?

Answer: We corrupt ourselves with the following symptoms:

1. We grow an evil eye (v. 15) and envy what others have.
2. We compare, then covet, then start to criticize and complain.

3. We forget that the workers belong to God and not to us. (It is His job to judge and reward the labors).
4. We allow other people (what they do and how God treats them) to come between God and us.
5. We cannot be satisfied with what God gives us, because we compare it with what God gives another.

What A Discovery:

- ◆ If **Calvary** is not enough to motivate me where I am, then **nothing else** will ever be enough where I may go.
- ◆ If I'm not content with what I **have**, I'll not be content with what I **want**.

III. Guard against "brashness" within ourselves.

"They supposed that they should have received more." (v.10)

Fact: These workers were brash, overconfident and therefore, disappointed.

Fact: They had negotiated their own contract but did not want to stick to it.

Fact: They reflect the same attitude that Peter was corrected for:

"Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what do we get out of all this?" (19-27)

Failure, Failure, Failure

Fact: Peter thought he was among the first!

Fact: Peter was warned that he might be among the last!

Fact: Peter felt he deserved a little more!

Fact: Peter was slipping in his thinking (beginning to serve for reward instead of love).

What A Danger Here

- The six o'clock workers got their **work** done, but they did not get God's **will** done.
- These workers then **murmured** and **complained** (and revealed who is "first" and "last" in the kingdom of God).

Two Kinds Of Workers

1. The workers who **bargained** with the master did not trust him to do what was right.
2. The other workers **believed** the master and left all reward with him (and joyfully entered into their labors). They trusted His words in v.4, 7 "Whatever is right, I will give you!"

Which Kind Of Leadership Attitude Do I Have?

"For many be called, but few chosen." (v. 16)

- The words "chosen" and "called" refer to the quality of heart:

What A Discovery

1. The "**called**" work for God out of **payment** and **reward**.
2. The "**chosen**" work for God out of **love** and **gratitude**, and never get caught up with "What's in this for me?" (19:27)

The Leader's "Thank You"
(How to never "feel cheated" or "get bitter" in your labors)
Luke 17:7-10

"Does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? I suppose not. So likewise ye when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you say, we are unprofitable servants. **We have done that which was our duty to do.**" (v. 9, 10)

(Four Powerful Lessons Are In Luke 17:1-10)

1. A solemn warning concerning stumbling blocks (v. 1,2)
 - How we must never exercise Christian liberty to the point where we cause a weaker brother to stumble.
2. A solemn warning concerning injuries (v. 3,4)
 - How we are to exercise mercy and forgiveness to those who would offend us.
3. A solemn warning concerning faith (v. 5,6)
 - How genuine faith will overcome all feelings of ill-will when we need to trust God to balance the scales when overlooked or forgotten by man.
4. A solemn warning concerning "feeling cheated": (v. 7-10)

(In v. 7-10)

- ◆ Farm hands complete their labors and come back to the house.
- ◆ The owner of the farm doesn't even let them stop, but has them fix his evening meal.
- ◆ The servant was hired to serve the interest of his master.
- ◆ So much so, that the master doesn't even thank the servant. ("I think not" v. 9)
- ◆ Why not? Because the servant doesn't deserve a "Thank You". (He is only doing what he signed up for!!!)

What Liberating Power In This Parable

Fact: In verse 7, Jesus uses the word "servant".

Fact: The word "servant" **Doulos** (Mark 10:44) **Diakonos** (Matthew 223:11) means:

- One who advances **others** at the expense of **themselves**.
- One who exists to serve the interest of his **master**.
- One who is willing not to be "**thanked**" for his services.
- One who **cares less** about impressing other people.
- One who is not **detoured** by the selfishness of others.
- One who is a **slave** to Christ without **complaint**.
- One who has died to his **rights** at Calvary.
- One who considers it a **joy** to be spent for Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION

Servanthood/Humility

- ◆ John Brodie was an outstanding quarterback in the National Football League.
- ◆ At the end of his career he was reduced to a back-up role.
- ◆ In his last four games ever played, he only held the ball for the field goal kicker.
- ◆ An incensed rookie player said to John Brodie:

“Mr Brodie, you’re going into the Hall of Fame, why do you demean yourself and hold the football for the kicker?”

John Brodie thought for a moment and said, “**So it won’t fall on the ground**”.

In Other Words:

He was willing to do the small things for the sake of the team to win the game.

(Many of you do this here, week after week, month after month, year after year and Heaven will be fuller because of you!

Remember Beloved:

- ◆ A servant is one who advances others at the expense of themselves, doesn’t need to be thanked for their service and cares less who gets the credit.

Truth That Liberates My Soul

1. The root cause of all complaints is when a person feels like they are not **getting what they deserve**. (The truth is, we don't want what we deserve.)
2. Sourness, bitterness and resentment is simply **failure** to see **suffering** from God's point of view. (It blames its condition and justifies its carnal feelings on what someone else has (or has not) done. Thus, those dents, detours, delays, disappointments, offenses, wounds, etc. become a **tombstone** instead of a **stepping stone**.)
3. An enemy in the **heart** is worse than 10,000 in the **field**.
4. We are worn down more by the **pebble** in our shoe than by the **mountain** we are climbing.
5. A willingness to **forgive** all offenders, **releases** God's power through you to touch more people. (Joseph saving the nation in famine).

Conclusion

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

Some Leadership "Weed Secrets" (To Keep The Vineyard Of Our Heart Free From Those Little Foxes)

1. Weeds start small and innocent (evil thoughts, bitter attitudes, compromise, etc).
2. Weeds hide the fruit (they cover the precious wheat).
3. Weeds sap your strength (they drain you spiritually, physically and emotionally).
4. Weeds spread if left unattended (they multiply rapidly).

How To Kill The Weeds

1. See their **seriousness** "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Galatians 5:9)
2. Call them by **name** "Weights and sins that beset us." (Hebrews 12:1)
3. Get going **today** "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness." (II Corinthians 7:1)
4. Stay out of other people's **gardens** "Examine me O Lord." (Psalm 26:2)

Nuf Sed!
Bill Kirk

