



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

**LEARNING FROM THE MASTER
(JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)**

STUDY 21-47 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 23-The parable of The Master and Servant

Text: Luke 17:7-10

LAST WEEK: Parable No. 22: -The parable of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

LESSONS: God has a tender, personal concern, and a joyous love for individuals who are lost (in sin) and are found (repent). It is only by God's grace that we are saved, not by works that we may boast of.

Parable No. 23-The parable of The Master and Servant

(Luke 17:7-10)

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had just **spoken to His disciples** about great works possible by great faith. In this parable, Jesus added some words meant to work against the pride that often rises when someone is used by God.

Jesus speaks of those who really serve. "Plowing" is hard work; it exhausts the strength and endurance of the plowman. It is hard work in farming, and it is hard work in spiritual ministry. "Tending sheep" can also be hard work, requiring a lot of patience, attention to detail, and a caring heart.

This meat of the word is for the disciples. "Mark you, he was not laying down the way of salvation, but pointing out a path of service for those who were already saved." (Spurgeon)

Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink: Jesus pictured a servant coming in from a hard day of work, either plowing or tending sheep. When the servant arrives home, the master does not compliment, or feed, or serve, or massage the servant. The master expected the servant to keep serving because there was still work to do.

There is always something we can do to serve our Master, and there is always some way we can do it. We are to keep on serving as long as we live.

In the context of the preceding words of Jesus, we can say that there are still people to forgive; there are still great works of faith to be done.

These works are hard, but in this parable Jesus gave us the right attitude. His pleasure before our own. His people preferred before ourselves. His Name before our own name.

Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him?

Of course the master does not thank the servant for such things; in that pre-Christian culture such kindness was unthinkable.

Therefore, we don't serve Jesus inwardly demanding that He thank us or praise us.

- It seems strange that Jesus would thank us, in light of all He has done for us.
- It seems strange that He would thank us considering all we have left undone.
- It seems strange considering all we have done has come from Him as a gift and an empowering anyway.

"What have we done for him compared with what he has done for us? Our service put beside Christ's is like one single grain of dust put in comparison with the mighty orb of the sun." (Spurgeon)

Yet strangely, He will thank us and reward us. Though we don't deserve it, He will look at the work of each of His servants and to the faithful ones He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
(Matthew 25:21, 23)

We are unprofitable servants: The kind of attitude Jesus spoke of is not a false humility, the kind of attitude that says "I'm no good at anything"; it is not an admission that we do nothing good or pleasing to God. It simply recognizes that He has done so much more for us that we could ever do for Him.

We have done what was our duty to do: This attitude understands that our Master has done more and greater things for us than we could ever do for Him. What He did for us was out of pure love; what we do for Him is out of proper gratitude and duty.

It is so important for us to emphasize what the Bible emphasizes – what God has done for us. When we realize all that God has done for us in Jesus, we want to serve Him out of gratitude. Think of the great work of forgiveness Jesus did for us; think of the great mountains He moved by faith. The greatest works of faith and forgiveness by us are mere duty in comparison.

When our hearts are right, we live and act as if we are happy to have the privilege of being allowed to serve God.

Not enough Christians have this attitude today. Instead, many today often want to project a "super-Christian" image that makes them seem to be anything but "unprofitable servants". We only think that we are better than others are when we look to man, not Jesus.

"Growing saints think themselves nothing; full-grown saints think themselves less than nothing."
(Spurgeon)

Lesson: We can't put God into debt to us; anything we do for Him is small repayment for His work in our life. -