

The Unprofitable Servant

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(Luke 17:10) 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.

(Mat 25:30) And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

unprofitable – useless, bringing no profit, producing no gain beyond the labor (breaking even); producing no improvement or advantage, serving no purpose
profitable – easily used, useful

- I. God's kingdom is about love – not about service.
 - A. What I am saying may be taken by many as contrary to the truth, but it IS the truth.
 1. The most common message intended to motivate today is service out of duty and not out of love.
 2. This kind of message is useful in building a business or a church, but it is not God's message.
 3. The goal of most motivational preaching is to get people to produce something that the church or preacher can boast about.
 - B. But the kingdom of God is not a plantation or a factory.
 - C. We are not slaves that must be driven and beaten and forced to produce.
 - D. God doesn't think of the kingdom of heaven as a business He is running.
- II. Duty is not a good enough motive for a relationship with God.
 - A. It may work to keep a business or organization (like a church) going for a while.
 - B. But it does not work to keep a relationship going.
 - C. It may sustain the outward appearance of the relationship, but a true relationship does not survive based on duty.
- III. DOING is not what God desires from us.
 - A. Our relationship with God is likened to husband-wife, father-children.
 - B. Only an ungodly person thinks of his wife or children as servants.
 - C. Only an ungodly person weighs the value of others by what they DO for him.
 - D. A wife and children are to love and the only thing that will satisfy a husband and a father is when they love him back.
 - E. Almost all "doing" is done for the eyes and ears of men and not for God.
 - F. God desires our love – not our service.
 1. The FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT – the one on which all the law and prophets are built upon is:

(Deu 6:5) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

2. Our service to him is a result of our love for him, and any service that is done from any other motive is not acceptable to him.

(John 14:21) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

(Mat 7:21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

(John 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

(1 John 3:22-23) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

(John 14:15) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

IV. It is what you ARE and not what you DO that matters.

- A. If you ARE what you should be – then you will DO what you should do.
- B. But DOING without BEING what you should be makes you an unprofitable servant.
 - 1. All the good works of people that are done out of duty alone will be burnt up.
 - 2. It also makes you a hypocrite.
- C. This is exactly what Cain did that was NOT acceptable to God.
 - 1. He brought of the fruit of the ground – the works of his hands.

(Luke 10:40) But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

- D. People who are serving out of duty will be burdened, distracted, discontented, and miserable.

(Luke 10:41-42) And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

- 1. There will be no peace, rest, and joy in serving God.
- 2. They will not feel unity with the brethren, but will feel used by them and taken advantage of.

(Luke 10:39) And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

V. We rest in the Lord and allow him to use us as He sees fit.

(2 Tim 2:21) If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

- A. We are an instrument in his hand and that is the only way we can be a profitable servant.
- B. We must be useful to him and to his kingdom and purposes.
- C. We must be available to him so He can use us as He sees fit.
- D. All that we do should be motivated by love for God.
- E. All that we do should be done from our heart “as to the Lord.”

(Col 3:23) And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

- F. We need to be very careful that what we do or believe is not for the eyes and ears of others, but for God himself.

(Eph 6:6) Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

(John 15:12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

- G. If we have been unprofitable in the past we can still be profitable to the Lord in the future.

(Phile 1:11) Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: