

## The Parables of Jesus

- The Master and the Servant

- Luke 17:7-10

This parable is found only in the Gospel of Luke. This parable is the last of teachings that Jesus gave as He was leaving Capernaum on a road leading to Jerusalem and ultimately, His death. In Luke 17:1-10 and as we just discussed in Matthew 18:1-35, Jesus was beginning to conclude this time of teaching to

the disciples, the Pharisees and scribes as well as the "publican and sinners" that were following Him.

Throughout this time of teaching, Jesus was expressing what the true attitude of heart should be for a true disciple of the Lord. That was the primary "theme" threaded throughout all of these parables and teachings that Jesus just taught and brought forth. The Pharisees and religious leaders were not capable of walking in love, mercy and forgiveness because they walked away from the fundamental truths of who their God was and how they were to be His representative figures to His people.

They got caught up in self-righteous attitudes and the "letter of the Law." Now it was going to be Jesus' disciples that were to become His representative figures to express Father God's, love, mercy and forgiveness to not only the Jewish people but to the whole world.

To keep everything in perspective and to keep the disciples on the right track, Jesus proceeds to use this final parable in this teaching setting. It is the conclusion or final summation of everything He just taught to the disciples, the publicans and sinners as well as the Pharisees and scribes.

*The Parable of the Master and the Servant - Luke 17:7-10 - "But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow 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."*

In this parable Jesus places His listeners into the position first of being a master who would have a servant and what their expectations for that servant would be. He puts His disciples in, not only His position, but also Father God's position. He is appealing to their own understanding of the relationship between a master and his servant.

Obviously, it was the servant's job to do these daily chores of feeding the cattle and doing the plowing around the farm. As the servant, his job was also to come in after the chores of the day and prepare and serve dinner for his master. This was the servant's life. It was what he was expected to do and it was not out of the ordinary for the master to expect everything to be accomplished.

Jesus was telling His disciples the same thing. Everything He was teaching them through these parables and teachings - walking in love, mercy, compassion, not compromising nor being selfish, greedy and covetous - He was expecting them to do as His disciples - the ones that He would now be entrusting His people to.

In the very beginning of this teaching setting in Luke 14:28-33, Jesus began with a teaching on "Counting the Cost" of being His disciple. He continued with the following parables to express what that really entails.

- The Parable of "The Lost Sheep" - Matthew 18:12-14, Luke 15:4-7
- The Parable of the "Lost Coin" - Luke 15:8-10
- The Parable of the "The Prodigal Son" - Luke 15:11-32
- The Parable of the "Unjust Steward" - Luke 16:1-8
- The Parable of the "Rich man and Lazarus" - Luke 16:19-31
- The Parable of the "Unmerciful Servant" - Matthew 18:23-35

He now concludes with the parable of the "Master and his Servant" which typifies what is expected of them, not just as disciples but also as the future leaders of the Body of Christ. Jesus is saying to them that if they truly followed after and changed their lifestyle to that of the One they were choosing to follow (Jesus), that the attitude of their heart should not be one of pride and being puffed up as if they are someone special or that they were doing something that is out of the ordinary in being a servant of the Lord.

This Christ-like lifestyle would not bring fame, glory and prestige. Quite the opposite would happen. It would be a lifestyle of being a good and faithful steward to God as His bondservant, as well as being a servant, even to the point of being a slave, not just to God but also to His people and all others. Rather than thinking they were "someone great and special," the attitude of heart of a true disciple of Jesus must be, *"...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.**"*

As we mentioned previously, Jesus began this time of teaching with the parable of "Counting the Cost." He concludes with the same thought. The disciples needed to know the "cost" of their decision to follow Him and be His disciple. The cost was their very lives. Their lives would truly "no longer be their own."

In 1Corinthians 6:19 it tells us, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own?**"* The scripture tells us this again in Galatians 2: 20, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**"* Jesus tells us this very thing here as He concludes this time of teaching. Are we getting the hint???