

The Parable of the Unworthy Servant Luke 17:1-10

I. The Parable - v. 7-10

- A. The non-starter question – v.7
- B. The common question -v.8
- C. The heart question – v.9
- D. The nature of servanthood – v.10

II. The Context of the Parable – v.1-6

A. Problems between People are Inevitable

- 1. Stumbling blocks will come – v. 1

skandalon – offenses, snares

James 3:2-6

- 2. Failing to handle problems between people properly is a serious issue

- a. Woe to him through which they come – v. 2

- b. It would be better if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown in the sea – v. 2

- c. Pay attention to yourselves! – v. 3

B. Problems between People Can be Solved

- 1. Step One – If you believe a person has sinned against you, go and speak to him privately

- a. But doesn't the person who sinned have a responsibility? Mt. 5:23-24

- b. What does it mean to "rebuke"? epitamaw - "to show him his fault"

- c. Do so humbly, why?

- 1. Because your understanding of the situation may be incorrect

- 2. Because the other person may not realize he sinned against you

- 3. Because you may have sinned during the interchange as well and you will also have to address that part of the problem

1 Peter 4:8 Prov. 10:12

- 2. Step Two - If he repents, forgive him

- a. A word to those on the other side of the equation Proverbs 12:15, 17:10

- b. What is forgiveness?

A three-fold promise: Psalm 103:12; 86:4-5 Eph. 4:31-32 Matt. 6:11-12

1. I will not bring it up to your face.
2. I will not bring it up behind your back.
3. I will not dwell on it.

- c. Does this mean that forgiveness is conditional? Exodus 34:6-7
 - d. Is it OK if I forgive the person but then refuse to have anything to do with them again?
 - e. Is it OK to make the person wait a while before I forgive them? Mark 11:25
 - f. What should a person do in the meantime if a person they've rebuked will not repent?
 1. Cultivate a "forgiving spirit" Luke 23:34
 2. Get others involved if necessary and appropriate cf. Matthew 18:15-18
 - g. What if I have taken all these steps but the other person is no longer interested in the relationship? Romans 12:18
3. Be prepared to do this as many times as necessary Luke 17:4

C. Problems between People Must be Solved

1. The apostles' question about faith - v.5
2. The Lord's answer about faith – v.6
3. Because we are unworthy servants ready to obey our King.- v.7-10

Conclusion:

Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 2:3, Proverbs 10:8