

THE ABC's
of
Becoming
A Better Christian

COMPARISON

AND

COMPETITION

Key Passage

Matthew 20:1-16 (NLT)

- 1 “For the Kingdom of Heaven is like **the landowner** who went out early one morning to hire workers **for his vineyard**. 2 **He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work**.
- 3 “At nine o’clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. 4 So he hired them, telling them he would **pay them whatever was right at the end of the day**. 5 So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o’clock he did the same thing.
- 6 “At five o’clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, ‘Why haven’t you been working today?’
- 7 “They replied, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “The landowner told them, ‘Then go out and join the others in **my vineyard**.’ 8 “That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. 9 When those hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wage.
- 10 When those hired first came to get their pay, **they assumed they would receive more**. But they, too, were paid a day’s wage. 11 When they received their pay, **THEY PROTESTED TO THE OWNER**,
- 12 **‘Those people worked only one hour**, and yet you’ve paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’ 13 “He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair! Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage? 14 Take your money and go. I chose to pay this last worker the same as you.
- 15 **Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money?** Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’ 16 “So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.”

Introduction

From The Very Beginning, God Placed Laws In Place To Keep Us From Desiring What Others Have...

Exodus 20:17 (NLT)

17 “You must not **COVET** your neighbor’s house. You must not **COVET** your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or **anything else that belongs to your neighbor.**”

TO COVET MEANS....*To lust after* or *to long for with great desire...*”

The People of God were not to desire, long for, or set their hearts on anything that belonged to anyone else.

Why?

Psalms 73:2-5 (NIV)

2 But as for me, **my feet had almost slipped**; *I had nearly lost my foothold.*

3 For I envied the arrogant **WHEN I SAW THE PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED.**

4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.

DANGER OF SOCIAL MEDIA



The Dangers Of Comparison

Matthew 20:10-16

10 When those hired first came to get their pay, *they assumed they would receive more*. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. 11 When they received their pay, **THEY PROTESTED TO THE OWNER**,
12 *'Those people worked only one hour*, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us **WHO WORKED ALL DAY IN THE SCORCHING HEAT.'**

Comparisons Lead To Complaining

"They Protested The Owner"

"You Paid Them..."

"We Worked All Day In The Scorching Heat"

Complaining Will Replace Gratitude

Who Gave You The Job ~ The Owner

Who Gave You The Wages ~ The Owner

Who Gave You The Opportunity ~ The Owner

Psalms 24:1 (NIV)

1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

James 1:17 (NLT)

17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father...

The Dangers Of Comparison

Matthew 20:10-16

2 *He AGREED to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.*

10 *When those hired first came to get their pay, they ASSUMED they would receive more.*

The Origin Of Their Complaints

They Agreed... Then Assumed....

They agreed to serve, They agreed to labor, They agreed to work ~ Then They Assumed

When We Agreed to Follow Christ ~ Did You Read The Agreement

Matthew 34:19 ~ Many are the afflictions of the righteous...

John 16:33 ~ In this world you will have tribulation...

Philippians 1:29 ~ for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake...

Job 14:1 ~ "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

Did You Assume You Would Always Have Money, Always Be Healthy, Always Be Liked

Always Be Treated Right, Always Have A Job

When We Look At Others... We Begin To Assume We Should Have MORE!!!!

We're mad at God because we think He was better to someone else than he was to us.

The Dangers Of Comparison

Matthew 20:10-16

*2 He **AGREED** to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.*

*10 When those hired first came to get their pay, **they ASSUMED** they would receive more.*

The Other Group... Did Not Have An Agreement

They Trusted That The Owner Would Be Fair

Whatever He Blessed Them With Was Sufficient

They Truly Depended On The OWNER TO DECIDE

Mark 4:8 (NIV)

*8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying **thirty**, **sixty**, or even a **hundred times**."*

God Knows How To Bless You...

Some Seasons You Received Uncommon Favor

Some Seasons You Received Grace That Is Sufficient

They Were Grateful To Have A Job.... To Get A Check



The Dangers Of Comparison

Matthew 20:13-15 (NLT)

13 “He answered one of them, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair!
Didn’t you agree to work all day for the usual wage?’

15 *Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money?*
Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?’

Don’t Judge Yourself By The Way God Treats Someone Else

“I Must Not Be Doing Something Right Mentality”

Remember, God isn’t *obligated to treat everyone alike*. He isn’t bound by *our standards of fairness*.
If he **CHOOSES** to bless someone more obviously than he blesses you, **THAT’S HIS BUSINESS**.

God can deliver you from it and deliver someone else through it!!!

He’s God. He can deal with us any way he chooses.

Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

10 *For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked FOR HIM*
and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.



Biblical Examples

1 Samuel 18:6-11 (NLT)

6 When *the victorious Israelite army was returning home* after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet *King Saul*.

They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.

7 This was their song: “*Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!*”

8 *This made Saul very angry*. “What’s this?” he said. “*They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. NEXT THEY’LL BE MAKING HIM THEIR KING!*”

9 *So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David*.

10 The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, 11 and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall.

Key Observations

Overlooked the Fact that The Team Had Victory ~ Team Came Home Safely

Overlooked the Fact That God Placed David On Your Team

Consumed With Credit

Overtaken With Envy By The Chant of Comparison

Biblical Examples

Luke 15:22-32 (NLT)

22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. *We must celebrate with a feast,* 24 *for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.*

25 “Meanwhile, *the older son was in the fields working.* When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, 26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. *We are celebrating because of his safe return.*’

28 “*The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in.* His father came out and *begged him,* 29 but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. *And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.* 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’ 31 “His father said to him, ‘*Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours.* 32 *We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”*

Key Observations

Overlooked the Fact that Brother Was Home

Overlooked the Fact That His Father Had Been Good To Him



Biblical Examples

John 3:22-29 (NLT)

22 Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, *baptizing people*. 23 At this time *John the Baptist was baptizing* at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and *people kept coming to him for baptism*.

26 *So John's disciples came to him* and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, *the one you identified as the Messiah*, is *also baptizing people*.
AND EVERYBODY IS GOING TO HIM INSTEAD OF COMING TO US."

27 John replied, "**NO ONE CAN RECEIVE ANYTHING UNLESS GOD GIVES IT FROM HEAVEN.**
28 You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. *I am only here to prepare the way for him.*'
29 It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. **THEREFORE, I AM FILLED WITH JOY AT HIS SUCCESS.**

Key Observations

John Was Able To Overcome The Spirit Of Comparison By Understanding His Assignment/Purpose

2 Corinthians 10:12-13 (ESV)

12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, **THEY ARE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING**. 13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to **THE AREA OF INFLUENCE GOD ASSIGNED TO US**, to reach even to you.

Comparison Could Lead To Competition

John Did Not View Jesus As Competition, But A Co-Laborer

WE ARE ON THE SAME TEAM MINDSET

1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (ESV)

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that *there be no divisions among you*, but that you *be united in the same mind* and the same judgment.

11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

13 *Is Christ divided?* Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NLT)

4 When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," *aren't you acting just like people of the world?*

5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? *We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News.*

EACH OF US DID THE WORK THE LORD GAVE US.

6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but *IT WAS GOD WHO MADE IT GROW.*

I AM HAPPY TO BE USED BY GOD....

In Conclusion.....

God Prohibits His People From Longing For Things That Belong To Others

Comparisons Will Lead To Complaining

Complaining Will Replace Gratitude

Looking At Others Can Lead To The Assumption That You Should Have More

Trust God To Bless You Justly Not Fairly

Don't Judge Yourself By The Way God Treats Someone Else

Complaining Will Eventually Lead To Competition



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