

## Spiritual Depression-Its Causes and Cures

### -A study through D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones sermon series-

#### Chapter 9 - Laborers in the Vineyard

Today we are going to again look at the parable found in Matthew 20. To fully understand this parable we must look at the \_\_\_\_\_. Why did Jesus tell this parable? What was the main lesson that Jesus was trying to convey? To answer these questions we must back up and understand the ending of chapter 19.

*“The whole point of this parable is addressed to Peter because of that claim which he made. Our Lord heard Peter’s question, but He obviously detected a very wrong and false note in that question; so it was in order to rebuke him, to reprimand him and to warn him most seriously, that our Lord spoke the parable. That, it seems to me, is proved conclusively by the way in which He repeats this statement about ‘many that are first shall be last and the last shall be first’. You get it at the beginning and you get it at the end.”*

Jesus was correcting a wrong conclusion from Peter. Peter was thinking all in terms of \_\_\_\_\_-he had done so much for Christ, so he expected to get so much back from Him. Peter was looking at things all from the viewpoint of works and wages. So, Jesus gives this parable (as he did at other times as well) to teach His disciples to begin to think in a whole new and different way about the Christian life.

*“Here, then, is the principle on which we must concentrate. What is it? What is the doctrine? It is that in the Christian life all is of grace from the very beginning to the very end. That is the message, that is the doctrine, that is the principle.”*

*“The point about these people (those who were hired first) is that they started in the right way and then got into trouble later on. How often does that happen...it is not enough to start correctly, we must continue in the right way...People who have known the glorious liberty of the children of God sometimes go back into bondage and become miserable and unhappy.”*

One thing that Christians must remember is to stop always assessing our work and the work of others. We are constantly looking at what we have done and what others have done and then we start making

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*“They were assessing their work. They were keeping an account of the others also, and keeping a careful record of all they did and how long they have been working...Let us pause with that for a moment and let it sink deeply into us. Our Lord is concerned to denounce that attitude. It is fatal to the Kingdom of God. He detected it in Peter’s statement.”*

*“The fundamental attitude is so wrong and so entirely antithetical to the realm of the Spirit and of the Kingdom...What is so pathetic and tragic about this is that it brings a man into trouble at the very point where our Lord is most gracious in His dealings. What makes this parable so terrible is that these men are exposed for what they really were...”*

*“Look at these men. Because of their initial wrong attitude, because of their forgetfulness of the principle of grace, they expected to receive more than the others, and they felt that they deserved more...they had a feeling that they were entitled to more and that they should be given more; they expected more and because they did not get it they were upset.”*

Comparing yourself with others will always lead you to a bad place. We should keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and His grace. Whenever we start elevating our works and thinking about all that we have done for God we fall into the trap of pride and this pride will eventually lead to \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

*“What a tragic thing it is that Christian people can be miserable and murmuring instead of rejoicing in Christ Jesus. It is an outcome of the fact that they have forgotten that everything is of grace. They have forgotten this great principle that goes right through the Christian life from the very beginning to the very end.”*

*“It leads to another thing, namely, a contempt for others and at that same time a certain amount of jealousy of others...It is the principle of the elder brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son.”*

It is bad to forget that all is of grace. It is bad to be filled with pride and look down upon others. However, the worst thing of it all in the parable is the \_\_\_\_\_ that the first laborers had towards their master.

*“They had persuaded themselves that this man was not righteous in his dealings with them...and so the Christian is tempted of the devil to feel that God is not being fair. The devil come to him and says: ‘Look at how much you have done, and what are you getting for it? Look at that other fellow, he has done nothing yet look at what he is getting’...That is the spirit, and the thing that makes it so serious is that in that condition the Christian, unless he is very careful, will soon be ascribing unrighteousness to God. He will be feeling that God is not fair to him, that God is not giving him his rights, that God is not giving him his due.”*

*“What a miserable thing self is, what an ugly thing, what a foul thing. We are all guilty, of this, every one of us, in some shape or form. The devil comes to us and we listen, and we begin to doubt whether God is just and righteous in His dealings with us.”*

What is the cure for such wickedness? What doctrine can correct such wrong thoughts? We must focus on the very concept of \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The principle is that in the Kingdom of God everything is essentially different from everything in every other kingdom...Do not think in terms of bargains and rights in the Kingdom of God. That is absolutely fatal. There is nothing so wrong as the spirit which argues that because I do this, or because I have done this, I have the right to expect something else in return.”*

*“Do not keep a record or an account of your work. Give up being book-keepers...Be prepared for surprises in this Kingdom. You never know what is going to happen. The last shall be first. What a complete reversal of our materialistic outlook, the last first, the first last, everything upside down. The whole world is turned upside down by grace.”*

*“Our ledgers are out of date; they are of no value. We are in the Kingdom of God and it is God’s accountancy. It is all of grace.”*

We must not only think about God’s wonderful grace but we must \_\_\_\_\_ in it-to glory in the free grace of God. To keep bringing our minds back to the fact that all we have is of grace and then rejoice over this fact.

*“The secret to a happy Christian life is to realize that it is all of grace and to rejoice in that fact...That is the secret. Not watching the clock, not assessing the amount of work, not keeping a record in the book, but forgetting everything except the glory of God, the privilege of being called to work for Him at all, the privilege of being a Christian, remembering only the grace that has ever looked upon us and removed us from darkness to light.”*

*“It is grace at the beginning, grace at the end. So that when you and I come to lie upon our deathbeds, the only thing that should comfort and help and strengthen us there is the things that helped us at the beginning. Not what we have been, not what we have done, but the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Christian life starts with grace, it must continue with grace, it ends with grace. Grace, wonderful grace.*