

## The Attitude of A Servant

Luke 17.7-10

The end of Jesus' ministry was near. Soon his disciples would be left alone. He reminded them of truths to guide their journey ahead. Then he told them a parable to underscore a fundamental truth: Sacrificial service is not optional; it is *required* of all servants.

### The Setting: Loving Reminders to Beloved Followers (Luke 17.1-6)

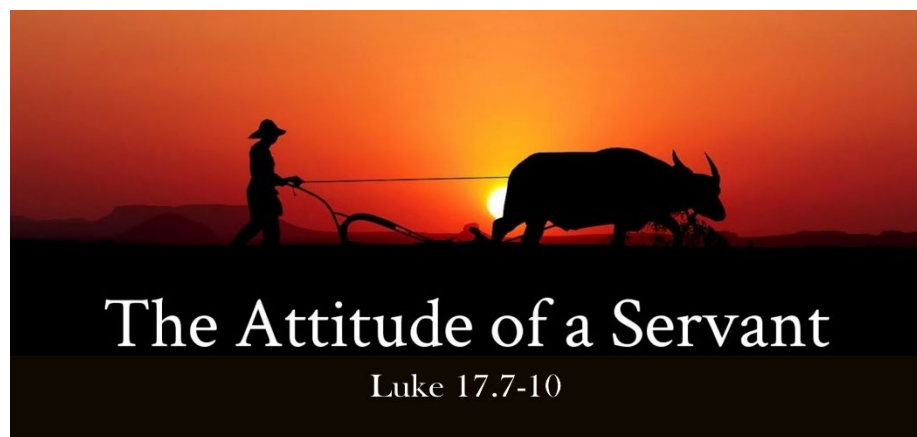
- Don't cause others to stumble into sin (1-2)
- Guard your heart, and forgive those who wrong you (3-4)
- Even a little faith can accomplish amazing things (5-6)

### The Parable: What is Expected of a Slave (17.7-10)

- After plowing a field or tending sheep, a slave comes in.
- He does not sit to eat, but prepares a meal for his master.
- The master does not thank the slave; he has done his duty.

### We Are Unworthy Slaves

- Beware the delusion of "entitlement Christianity"
- Give control of your life to Christ
- Recognize that you serve only one Master



1. The narrative of Luke 17 begins with an account of Jesus speaking to His disciples. In verses 1-6 He reminds them of important truths to help them avoid pitfalls in their spiritual lives. The Greek word translated "stumbling block" in v.1 is *σκάνδαλον* (*skándalon*; Eng. 'scandal'), and refers to a 'trap' or 'temptation to sin' that ensnares vulnerable believers. How serious does Jesus indicate the judgment will be for those who cause others to stumble (2)? What does Jesus advise when others sin against us? What is His emphasis on (3-4)? When the disciples express the impossibility of such forgiveness in v.5, what does Jesus remind them of in v.6? What practical lessons can you take from these verses for your Christian life?
2. Almost half of Jesus' parables allude to slaves or slavery. It might seem archaic or primitive to us, but Jesus used it to teach us about spiritual life – not to endorse or confront social practices. (This, by the way, exposes the lie of the so-called "social gospel" that makes Jesus' teaching all about correcting social ills.) Jesus taught so that we would get right with *God* and live our lives for *Him*. What does Jesus want His followers to see about their relationship to God in the parable in Luke 17.7-10?
3. In v.10, Jesus applies His parable for His followers: When we have done 'all the things which are commanded' of us, he tells us to say, "We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done." What are we 'unworthy' of? (Question: What does Jesus promise for faithful service throughout the Gospels? See Mt. 6.19-20; 19.27-28; 25.21; Mark 10.21; Lk. 6.38; 12.33-38; 19.15-19; 22.28-30; and dozens of other passages!)
4. While God has obligated Himself to reward Christians for faithful service for Him, He has done this because of grace! He didn't have to do this; He chose to out of an abundance of grace. How did Paul view his service for Christ (1 Cor. 4.1-2)? What was 'required' of him? What is required of us? Read Col. 3.22-24. Even in the case of those who were slaves, what did Paul exhort? Why? Who is it that we should all be ultimately serving?