

5-23-21 Message
DO WE SERVE FOR WAGES OR FOR GRACE

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man [that is] an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,

Matthew 20:4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Matthew 20:5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

Matthew 20:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

Matthew 20:7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, [that] shall ye receive.

Matthew 20:8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them [their] hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

Matthew 20:9 And when they came that [were hired] about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:11 And when they had received [it], they murmured against the goodman of the house,

Matthew 20:12 Saying, These last have wrought [but] one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

Matthew 20:13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 20:14 Take [that] thine [is], and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW OF GRACE AND THE LAW OF WORKS

This parable is spoken against the people of Israel who prided themselves in being keepers of the law. The Jews were given the Old Covenant, which consisted of the law of Moses, and the Old Testament covenant given to the nation Israel. The blessings of that covenant were contingent on obedience. However, in the fulness of time Jesus came and paid for the sins of the world through his atonement on the cross. Now he paved the way for anyone who would trust in him to enter into the Kingdom through the law of grace. Jew or Gentile, bond or free. The gospel net is cast out and whosoever will can come.

This parable is spoken against the self righteous Pharisees and Jews. They have been children of the covenant for years. Generation after generation, they have toiled and been chastened for their errors. They found it hard to keep the ordinances. They were chastened 70 years for their 490 years of neglect in not keeping the sabbath year. They suffered dispersion and then hardships under Rome. They thought themselves better than the Gentiles and others. Then on the cross Jesus opens up opportunities for all that are idle to come in and work for him in his vineyard. People like the thief on the cross is saved in the 11th hour of his life. Mary Magdalene is saved in the 6th hour. All are given the same wages. They all inherit eternal life.

Matthew Henry Comments on A Day's Wages...

.....the time of life is the day, in which we must work the works of him that sent us into the world. It is a short time; the reward is for eternity, the work is but for a day; man is said to accomplish, as a hireling, his day, Job 14:6. This should quicken us to expedition and diligence in our work, that we have but a little time to work in, and the night is hastening on, when no man can work; and if our great work be undone when our day is done, we are undone for ever. It should also encourage us in reference to the hardships and difficulties of our work, that it is but for a day; the approaching shadow, which the servant earnestly desireth, will bring with it both rest, and the reward of our work, Job 7:2. Hold out, faith, and patience, yet a little while.

The point is simply this, our life consists of a short day, whether it be 12 hour day, or we only have 1 hour to give to the Lord in service. The point is we should fill our lives serving Him and we will receive our wages at the end of our day or life.

The other point of the parable is made when those who were hired the first hour of the day say this:

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:11 And when they had received [it], they murmured against the goodman of the house,

Matthew 20:12 Saying, These last have wrought [but] one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

Notice how those who served the full 12 hours, thought they were better than the last who only served but one hour. In fact they murmured against the good man of the house. The Jews murmured against Christ, saying that he was a friend to publicans, harlots and sinners. They looked down their noses at these sinners thinking themselves better. They thought these people unworthy of being accepted into the Kingdom. So they murmured and complained.

Notice the response of the good man of the house.

Matthew 20:13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 20:14 Take [that] thine [is], and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

The Lord of the house, says, friend I do thee no wrong.. They murmured because they think this was wrong. Yet it was not wrong. They were standing idle, they had no work, and the good man of the house gave them work. What they forget is that the good man of the house did not need them to get his work done. He wanted to help them out and give them work. He had others that could do the work. But he saw they were idle and had compassion on them. Just like he had compassion on the ones he hired the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 11th hours.

Why did the good man of the house hire so many workers. It was not because he needed labourers, it was because he saw these people sitting idle and no one had hired them. They needed work and he wanted to help them. Most people hire people for what they can get out of them, but because this householder is called the "goodman of the house.." See Matt. 20:11 he did not hire these people for what he could get from them but for what he could give them. He didn't need any of them. He said, go work in the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you. These agreed to work for whatever, the goodman of the house would give them.

The only ones he made an agreement with were the ones he hired the first hour of the day. They agreed for a penny.

The point of the parable is that these were the only ones who complained. They worked for an agreed upon price. Notice how they were not content at the end of the day. Why is that? The reason why is simply this: They were not content with what they earned when they saw that others received the same wages by grace. They worked based on the rewards of their own merit, and when they saw that others worked based on the good grace of the good man of the house, they saw their burden was easy and light, while they called looked at what they went through as a burden, they said,

Matthew 20:10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:11 And when they had received [it], they murmured against the goodman of the house,

Matthew 20:12 Saying, These last have wrought [but] one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

They had borne the burden and heat of the day... they looked at what they suffered and thought they should be elevated above the others.

Some think this parable was also in response to Peter saying,

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Now when the murmurers, complained, Jesus replies to them saying,

Matthew 20:13 Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 20:14 Take [that] thine [is], and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

This morning, I want to stress this point that our Lord made to this murmuring servant. He said is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil because I am good..

What if God by his grace does good to some who do not deserve it, is that wrong? Would we get upset at that. Why? In fact the Lord says, is thine eye evil because I am good? How is it we would impute evil to God's good grace?

The point of this parable is not the monetary wages given or dished out. I mean what union would not say that what this good man of the house did was not good. Unions, people of this world have no concept of the meaning of this parable. The concept that people would actually trust in the good graces of someone to determine what they would receive in wages is totally foreign to us.

The point of this parable is the privileged of working for Christ in his vineyard. We do not enter into his service for earthly wages, but accept what reward he gives us by his good grace.

DO YOU SERVE FOR WAGES, OR FOR GOOD GRACE

- I. **THOSE WHO SERVE BASED ON WAGES OR OWN MERIT TEND TO HAVE AN EVIL EYE**
- II. **THOSE WHO SERVE ON THE BASIS OF GRACE ARE HAPPY FOR WHAT THEY RECEIVE**
They tend to have a single eye.. and are content..

III. NONE OF US ARE WORTHY TO SERVE THE LORD BUT BY HIS GOOD GRACE

**IV. BE CAREFUL THE LORD DOESN'T SAY TO YOU.. GO THY WAY..
For many are called few are chosen..**

The question we need to ask ourselves is this: Why do we serve the Lord?

Do we serve for wages, or do we serve the Lord because of who he is trusting in his good grace?

Notice the Lord said to those who were serving on the basis of their own merit of works..

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

I. *THOSE WHO SERVE BASED ON THEIR OWN MERIT TEND TO HAVE AN EVIL EYE*

Is thine eye evil because I am good..

The Lord indites this servant as having an evil eye.

What is an evil eye? An evil eye is when a person sees evil in others because their is evil in themselves. Jesus said this:

-Mat. 6:22, 23: 'The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light; but if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!'

An evil eye is the opposite of a single eye. A single eye sees a matter for what it is.. one truth, one light. A single eye is straight. An evil eye is opposite.. it is crooked or double minded. What is and what this person sees are two different things. This person misreads everything. This person cannot understand Scripture..

Is it not evil to have ill feelings towards others who are recipients of God's good grace and kindness? It is evil when you have ill feelings towards others because they have become recipients of grace? Here the good master did good and this wicked servant equates what he did as evil.

Think about it this servant receive his days wages, so why was he complaining? He was complaining because the good master of the household, gave others something they did not deserve. They each received a days wages. The problem is he forgot he was without a job, and was very anxious to receive work and was happy to agree for a penny which was the accepted wages for a days work.

What was the real problem? This murmur, worked for the penny, and was not satisfied with the penny. The other labourers were happy to work for the good master of the house and would accept whatever he gave and they were satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this [is] also vanity.

A good man will do good, and evil man will do evil. I have noticed through the years when a person is good and generous, they will give you more than you expect. I had one fellow I often worked for, that when he would ask me how much I would charge him to move a piano for him, I would say, tell me what you think is right. Almost every time he would give me a higher figure than I would have asked for. The reason was he was a good man. Now that doesn't always work when the person is not a good person. I have tried that with others and it did not turn out so good.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Jesus said, Is thine evil because I am good? There are people that just cannot understand this parable no matter how hard they try. To them it would be evil to treat the fellow that worked 12 hours this way by letting him receive the same amount of money that all the other labourers received.

Notice first of all the Lord solves the mystery by saying:

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

The point is this.. "IS IT NOT LAWFUL FOR ME TO DO WHAT I WILL WITH MINE OWN!"

We live in a world that is so evil that they do not believe that it is lawful to do what you will with your own. Today people with evil eyes prevail! This is the norm!

The concept of personal ownership and liberty and to do what you will with your own money and property is a divine principle in the Bible. This is what makes an economy work and flourish. Ownership of property, and possessions is from the ordinances of heaven and divinity itself. God gave man dominion and this dominion includes personal ownership and possession.

It is wicked men, and wicked hearts that say men do not have a right to do with their own what they will. This satanic world would say, you have to do what I tell you with your money. You have to spend it the way I tell you. We are going to tell you how much you are going to pay others. We are going to tell you how much money you can earn. This is wickedness.

We all have been given stewardship of possessions and wealth, and God looks to see what we will do with what we have been given. We can do good with our goods, or we can do evil. What this good master decided to do was give people something they did not deserve. That is grace! The laborer complained. Would he have complained if at the end of the day he received his penny and no other laborers were involved? He would have been happy. When he saw others receive something they did not earn or deserve he was upset. This is the definition of grace: you receive what you do not deserve.

He had an evil eye! When he saw the Goodman of the house exercise grace, he imputed evil to the good master. What the good master did was good, it was generous, it was gracious. The laborer thought it a slight to himself who endured the heat of the day. His eye was evil, he had double or crooked vision. What was good he saw as evil. Woe unto them who call good evil and evil good.

The real point of the parable is the Kingdom and entrance into the Kingdom and the privilege of serving the King.

1. First, the Lord does not want us to serve for wages but for Him who alone is good, gracious, merciful and Kind..

He is the good master or householder. He wants us to trust in him to receive in our lives what is right and good. We all only have one life to serve. For some it will be a long life and for some a short. Some will give their lives to the Lord in their youth, others will give their lives in the tail end, of at the 11th hour. No one gets saved the 12th hour.

For some they may go through fiery trials while others only minor adversities. Some will be like the Apostle John and live a long life and others may suffer like James or John the Baptist whose ministries were short lived. All receive the same wages eternal life.

None of us deserve anything no matter what our lot in this life! We serve God not for wages, but because of who he is. We know he will do what is right.

2. Those who think they have earned more than what has been allotted to them over estimate their worth

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Who are we to complain?

Some would say it is not right that I have to bear the heat of the day while others did not.

Let's put this in a different perspective.

What if in your life you have suffered with poor health, maybe a disability.

Would it be right that you would wish that disability on others? You would say no, that is evil and not right.

Well if a person does not have a disability or is blessed with good health that is but by the grace of God. Would you wish evil upon them because you in this life have suffered, the heat of the day, so to speak! You could easily see that would be wrong.

In 1994 there was a scandal when a Skater by the name of Tonya Harding was accused of being involved with a man who broke the leg of her competitor a woman by the name of Nancy Kerrigan. It was a great scandal. Again everyone could clearly see that this was evil.

Now the Lord says, to this wicked murmur, "is thine evil because I am good." We are living in a day when people would side with the murmur. The whole movement today of griping about set backs for certain people just feeds murmurers and complainers and no one can see it for what it is.

II. *THOSE WHO SERVE ON THE BASIS OF GRACE ARE HAPPY FOR WHAT THEY RECEIVE*
They tend to have a single eye.. and are content..

You will notice that the only one that complained was the fellow who worked the full 12 hours and agreed for a penny. All the others, the ones who were hired the 3rd, 6th, 9th hours never complained about receiving their penny.

A person who sees that whatever reward they get is by grace and not by merit will have a better attitude about everything.

When you see that any good you receive is by the good grace of our Lord, you will have a happier stress free life.

Life goes a lot easier for you when you live it with an attitude of gratefulness and appreciation for what the Lord gave you.

When your eye is single, you don't look at others with ill feelings, and an evil eye. Your eye is focused on the Lord and you marvel at the grace of God that has been bestowed upon you.

The Pharisees really thought they deserved a place in the Kingdom because they were following all their rules and regulations. They were hypocrites, and had an evil eye.

They were accusative and miserable. They were harder on others and constantly looking to accuse people of violating the law.

When Jesus healed people on the Sabbath, all they could see is that it was the sabbath, and they viewed his miracle as a work! Well praise God, God himself doesn't cease to uphold all things on the Sabbath. They couldn't see that someone was a recipient of grace. They could not see that God was merciful and did good on the Sabbath. Instead they imputed evil to our Lord for healing someone on the Sabbath! FOOLS!

The Blind man, who was healed said it right when he said, this one thing I know, wherein I was blind now I do see..

John 9:25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner [or no], I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

He was a recipient of grace and saw not injustice or evil in Christ who was the good man of the house so to speak!

III. *NONE OF US ARE WORTHY TO SERVE THE LORD BUT BY HIS GOOD GRACE*

The man who was murmuring forgot that there is none good but one. That is the LORD..

He murmured because he thought himself worthy of more than what he received.

Which of us are worthy of serving the Lord? Which of us are worthy of working in God's vineyard?

We are all sinners saved by grace. None of us are worthy of entering his Kingdom, none of us are worthy of being his servants. Jesus said, when all is said and done, when we make it to heaven here is what we are going to say:

Luke 17:10 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.

What is our duty?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Whatever God allots us in this life, whatever heat we bear, we should say, it is but our reasonable service.

IV. It is Far Safer To Trust In God's Goodness & Grace Than your own Good Works

This is the concept of faith.

By faith we are saved..

By faith we are accepted..

By faith we are rewarded..

Our good works are but a by product of faith. We are his workmanship unto good works which he ordained..

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The workers who were hired at the first hour, were trusting in their works for their reward. They thought it wrong that others were accepted by the good graces of the master of the house. They thought themselves better than the others.

The principle of grace is even in the Old Testament. The law was given to show just how far short we have fallen. The sacrifices were given to show the necessity of a substitution for our sin. Why sacrifices if justification could come by keeping the law only?!

If salvation came by works than why the sacrifices?

In fact what do the Jews have today without the sacrifices? They have nothing!

So all the works of the law were there to show how it was impossible to be saved apart from grace and faith and a blood atonement for sins. Also those sacrifices were never enough to atone for sin. They had to be made continually.

The Jews tried to be accepted by keeping the works of the law, and they just became hypocrites. Instead of admitting they failed and came short, they lied to themselves and others and pretended to be righteous and were not.

The harlots the publicans and the sinners came into the Kingdom of God before them.

To the Pharisees the Lord said

Matthew 21:31 ... Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Jesus gave another parable about forgiveness

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that [Jesus] sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind [him] weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe [them] with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed [them] with the ointment.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw [it], he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman [this is] that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that [he], to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped [them] with the hairs of her head.

Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

The problem all stems from a evil eye. A person with an evil eye does not see themselves as they really are before God. The most wicked and evil eye is that eye that sees themselves righteous before God. This is the evil eye of hypocrisy! They are sinners, everyone is a sinner. The sin of the Pharisees went a lot deeper than the sins of the immoral people and other sinners. Their sin was open to all.. the Pharisees sins were deep and dark and hidden.

Lack of humility and self righteousness is the greatest of all sins..

Jesus gave another parable illustrating this:

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men [are], extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Luke 18:13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as [his] eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

The problem is simply this: all are sinners, and when sinners compare themselves among themselves they do not see clearly as to who they are. The greatest sins are those committed against God. Even when we sin against men, it is a slight against God, for man is made in the image of God. The reason murder is wrong is given

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Just like this murmuring servant got his eyes off of the good master of the house and started comparing himself with other sinners, and thought himself pretty good. The worse sins are the sins that cannot be seen. The sins of the heart. It has been my experience that newly saved people are better at winning people to the Lord than seasoned saints are. They have a good memory of their faults while those who have some distance from their past lack insight to look deep into their hearts for those secrete sins that plague them!

David put it this way:

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand [his] errors? cleanse thou me from secret [faults].

Psalms 51:1 {To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-sheba.} Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Psalms 51:2 Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalms 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin [is] ever before me.

Psalms 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done [this] evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, [and] be clear when thou judgest.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden [part] thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psalms 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalms 51:8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; [that] the bones [which] thou hast broken may rejoice.

Psalms 51:9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me [with thy] free spirit.

Psalms 51:13 [Then] will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Psalms 51:14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: [and] my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

Psalms 51:15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Psalms 51:16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give [it]: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 51:18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

This is the reason David was forgiven and restored while Saul was not. We need to see our sin for what it is as God sees it!

There is a repentance to salvation and there is a repentance which is superficial and is a sorrow because of the repercussion of our sin. Who doesn't repent when they go to jail.. yet how many wind back up in jail after they are released? The repentant criminal is sorry he got caught, but does not see his/her sins for what they are.

David said,

Psalms 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done [this] evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, [and] be clear when thou judgest.

Judas Iscariot repented himself and then went out and hanged himself:

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [is that] to us? see thou [to that].

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

Matthew 27:7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the Potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Matthew 27:8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

**V. BE CAREFUL THE LORD DOESN'T SAY TO YOU.. GO THY WAY..
For many are called few are chosen..**

We hear these sad words spoke to these gripers and complainers.

Matthew 20:14 Take [that] thine [is], and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Matthew 20:15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

There are many who claim to be Christ's but are not.

This can be speaking about the religious Jews who claimed to be the children of God but were not. They are the ones who prided themselves of being under the law. These are the ones who were provoked to jealousy by the Gentile church, who by grace became the recipients of the New Covenant.

These Jews have gone astray, they have taken their law and ordinances, and good works and have strayed from their Lord and Messiah. They have gone their own way. They have taken their nation astray from the Lord.

They were the first to receive the oracles of God, yet they have set themselves last in that they fall short of entering the eternal kingdom. The gentiles go in before them.

They were called to come into the wedding feast but they made excuses. The door was closed and they failed to go in.

They were first but have made themselves last. They pride themselves in being God's chosen people, but they failed in that election, they failed to enter into His kingdom. They were the first to hear the gospel, but they were last to receive it.

When at last the gentiles were preached this amazing story of grace,. They gladly received it. So the last ones that you would ever think would be saved these were first to accept Christ!

Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Conclusion:

Many are called but few are chosen:

There is a general call that goes out inviting people to receive the gospel message. Many are invited to come, yet few respond!

There is a general call and there is an effectual call! Many are called but few are chosen to be recipients of eternal life.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?

God knows those who are his.

In the end, make sure your eye is not evil,
Make sure you are one of those who will hear these dreaded words,

Take that which is your own and go your way..

Make sure you do not fail or fall short of the grace of God..

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble [you], and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:16 Lest there [be] any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Remember Judas, walked with the Lord for 3.5 years and fell short of the grace of God..

Remember Hymenaeus, and Philetus were mentioned by name as those who fell short of the grace of God...

II Timothy 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

II Timothy 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

II Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Remember Peter said of Simon in Acts 8:20, that his money would perish with him, and that he was in the gall of bitterness and bond of iniquity!

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and [in] the bond of iniquity.

Invitation:

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

The Bible commands us to examine our lives and make sure our salvation:

II Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: