

# The Grumbling Worker

*Stanley Toussaint*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 19.
- B. The theme of Christian rewards is much neglected in the church today.
- C. Christians will be rewarded for their works beyond being saved.

## II. The promise of the Lord.

- A. Jesus goes through the last part of the Ten Commandments when asked about salvation. The last parts of the Commandments are the most difficult.
- B. The man was still spiritually destitute even though he kept the commandments. His inner conscience was still condemned apart from Christ.
- C. Jesus responds by telling the man to sell all he has and follow Him.
  - 1. Selling wealth is a sign of loving your neighbor.
  - 2. The man showed that he was a sinner because he held onto his wealth so tightly.
- D. One day the world will be reborn--in the "regeneration." (Romans 8, Daniel 7:13-14)
- E. At that time, the Apostles will reign and people who are faithful will gain a hundred fold.
- F. Jesus reminds Peter that the first will be last and the last will be first.

## III. The parable of the grumbling worker.

- A. Different workers worked for different amounts of time, but all received a whole day's wage.
- B. Those who worked the longest were resentful, but the master reminded them that that is for what they contracted.

## IV. Principles for our lives.

- A. Length of service has nothing to do with the amount of reward one will receive.
- B. Position has nothing to do with reward. Jesus is referring to equality and not inversion.
- C. God dispenses rewards as He pleases. God is sovereign in His rewards.
- D. God is generous in His rewards.
- E. Every believer has a work that he or she is responsible to do.

**Application questions:**

1. Have you ever struggled with envy or jealousy over something? What did you learn from the situation?

---

---

2. What does it mean, “the first will be last, and the last will be first?”

---

---

3. What should our response be when we see God’s generosity poured out on someone else? Explain.

---

---