

The Unprofitable Servants

July 13, 2025 | *Luke 17:7-10*



The Unprofitable Servants

Luke 17 : 7-10

Observation: What is happening here?:

Context: After Jesus' teaching on forgiveness & mustard-seed faith (vv. 1-6)

Parabolic Outline (vv.7-10)

- v.7: Servant returns from plowing / shepherding – day's fieldwork is done
- v.8: Master commands: *"Prepare my supper ... serve me [first]"*
- v.9: No extra χάρις ("thanks / credit") for mere obedience
- v.10: Disciples: "We are unprofitable servants ... only done ... our duty"

Key Terms

- ἀχρεῖος (G888) – "unprofitable / adding no surplus"
- χάρις (G5485) – "thanks / favor / credit"
- ἀναπίπτω (G377) – "to recline at table," a position of honor

Connections with Other Parables: Faithful & Unfaithful Servant (*Luke 12:35-48*), Talents (*Matthew 25:14-30*) & The Two Sons (*Matthew 21:28-32*)

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

Interpretation: What can we learn (interpret) from this?

- **Obedience Creates No Leverage**

- Even forgiving one another or having mustard-seed faith does not create leverage with God.
- Duty performed ≠ debt incurred; God is never in our debt.
 - **Scriptures:** *Job 41:11; Romans 11:35-36*

- **Grace Empowers Our Service**

- We (believers) belong to the Lord (Master); Saved for works!
- Whether field or flock, we are empowered to love and serve the Lord.
 - **Scriptures:** *Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:10*

- **Humility Guards Against Entitlement**

- “Unprofitable servants”: This is all about the heart. Check your heart!
 - If we boast, we boast in the Lord—not in ourselves.
 - **Scriptures:** *Luke 18:9-14; 1 Corinthians 1:31*
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Application: What can I do? How can I live this out?

- **Develop a Servant’s Heart in Daily Prayer**

- Think of how you can incorporate prayer and thanksgiving to God!
 - **Scriptures:** *Psalms 143:8; Colossians 3:17*
 - **Ask yourself:** *How is your heart towards God and others?*

- **Serve Without Expectation of Applause**

- Give, love and serve; even when no one is looking.
- Count your blessings from God. Publicly thank the Lord when you can.
 - **Scriptures:** *Matthew 6:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Hebrews 6:10*
 - **Ask yourself:** *Would I still do this if no one noticed?*

- **Lead as a Servant Leader**

- Knowing that you belong to him, live, love, and lead others to Christ by example. Do this through words and actions. Be an ambassador!
 - **Scriptures:** *John 13:12-17; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 5:2-3*
 - **Challenge:** *Where can I lead by example this week?*
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