

THE LAZY SERVANT

MATTHEW 25: 14-30

Introduction:

The Lazy Servant is one of the least likeable persons Jesus ever described. He stands in such sharp contrast to the 'Good and Faithful Servant.' Your immediate reaction is that you do not want to be such a person.

The key is to be a servant, not a slacker. I heard about a company that felt like they had to shake some things up so they hired a new CEO. His number one job was to get rid of all slackers. On his first tour of the building he noticed a guy leaning against a wall, not doing anything. Seeing this as an opportunity to show everyone he meant business, he went up to the guy and asked, "How much money do you make a week?" Undaunted, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$200 a week. Why?" The CEO then reached into his pocket, pulled out \$200 in cash and screamed at him, "Here's a week's pay, now get out and don't come back!" Feeling pretty good about his decisive decision, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that slacker did here, anyway?"

With a sheepish grin, one of the workers muttered, “He’s the pizza delivery guy.”

Since this parable is illustrating the nature of life in the kingdom of heaven, we should assume that this man represents someone who claims to have a relationship with God; someone who is publicly identified with the church. We are not to see this as avowed unbeliever, but rather a professing believer. This makes it a serious consideration for us.

This parable was spoken by our Lord to explain about His delay in His Second Coming, and the importance of His servants doing their work faithfully while He is gone. So it is really a word of warning for all of us who claim to be His followers.

What can we learn about the Lazy Servant from such a brief description of him?

I. THE LAZY SERVANT DOES NOT KNOW THE MASTER.

1. He believes His master to be demanding.

He probably focuses on the law of God rather than His love.

2. He believes His master to be hard.

He focuses on the responsibilities but ignores the resources God has provided.

3. He believes His master to be selfish.

In his heart he despises the Lord, and resists His authority.

II. THE LAZY SERVANT OFFENDS HIS LORD.

1. His attitude offends his Lord.

He focused on what his Master required rather than what he had received.

He responded to His master with fear rather than love.

2. His character offends his Lord.

3. His conduct offends his Lord.

III. THE LAZY SERVANT MISSES HIS OPPORTUNITY.

When he could have done something, he did nothing.

1. You can miss your opportunity by doing nothing.

2. You can miss your opportunity by misusing what God has given you.

IV. THE LAZY SERVANT SUFFERS ETERNAL LOSS.

1. He loses what he has.

2. He receives eternal condemnation.

The imagery is that of a person being cast into a prison where there will be no comfort or help. They will gnash their teeth in pain and in anger against the God who put them there. But all in vain! They are without hope for eternity. They missed it by doing nothing.

Conclusion:

In another setting, Everett Hale wrote, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something and I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." We do not know for sure that this man resented the fact that others had more gifts than he, but he may have. There may be someone who can do more than I can, but he cannot do what I can do. This is my day of opportunity. While I can, before my Lord comes, I must do what I can do for the building up of His body and the spreading of His love throughout the earth.