The Parable of the Profitable Servants
Luke 17:7-10

Main Thought  You should keep your hands on the plow (Luke 9:62), eyes straight ahead (Heb. 12:2), go the extra mile (Matt. 5:41). DO YOUR DUTY.

The Parable (7-9).

- Here two common forms of employment are explored: FARMING (plowing – Elisha in 1 Kings 19:19; Luke 9:62) and RANCHING (sheep).
- In the ancient world these tasks would be done by slaves (GK = doulos – slaves/servants). SLAVES were to be obedient to their masters (Col. 3:22) while MASTERS were to treat them right with respect (Col. 4:1). Slavery was not forbidden in the NT but regulated for it was the welfare system of the ancient world.

Two hypothetical scenarios are put forth:

1. Would the master ask the slave who comes in from the field to sit down with him and eat? The implied answer is NO. He rather would say “Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; AFTER that you may eat and drink.”

2. Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? The implied answer is NO.

The Application (10).

- You are a SLAVE to Christ (1 Cor. 7:22; 9:19) as was Mary (Luke 1:38), Paul (Rom. 1:1; Tit. 1:1); James (Jam. 1:1), Peter (1 Pet. 1:1), Jude (Jude 1), Timothy (Phil. 1:1).

- Christ TAUGHT (Mark 9:35) and MODELED servant leadership by WASHING the apostles feet (John 13:14-16), SERVING them breakfast (John 21:12-13), and DYING for us (John 15:13).

- Christ set the example for all of us by being a SERVANT to us (Mark 10:43-45).

- You are not your own. You were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19b-20).

“Make the end of one service the beginning of another.”
MATTHEW HENRY (1662-1714)

- We need to embrace the concept of DELAYED GRATIFICATION. First comes the CROSS (Phil. 2:6-8) and then the CROWN (Phil. 2:9-11). First comes humiliation and in due season exaltation (Gal. 6:9; 1 Pet. 5:6).

- DO YOUR DUTY! Do it without complaining (Phil. 2:14). Do it with a good attitude (1 Pet. 4:10). Do it with all of your might (Eccles. 9:10). Do it continually (Eccles. 11:6).

- Afterward you will receive an award – a crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:5-8).