

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones
Chapter 9: Laborers in the Vineyard
Matt 20:1-16

Cheerfulness is the support of our strength; in the joy of the Lord are we strong. It acts as the remover of difficulties. It is to our service what oil is to the wheels of a railway carriage. Without oil the axle soon grows hot, and accidents occur; and if there be not a holy cheerfulness to oil our wheels, our spirits will be clogged with weariness... Let us show to the people of the world, who think our religion to be slavery, that it is to us a delight and a joy! Let our gladness proclaim that we serve a good Master.

– Spurgeon, *Morning & Evening*, January 9

Lloyd Jones -- "Nothing is so false to the teaching of the New Testament as to give the impression that the moment you believe and are converted, all your troubles are at an end and you will never have another problem."

The parable at the center of this lesson is not one that teaches that we are to wait until the 11th hour before coming to the Lord. J.C. Ryle says of the dying thief: "Few are ever saved on their deathbeds. One thief on the cross was saved that none should despair; but only one, that none should presume."

1. The Lord's parable in Matt 20:1-16 is an answer to what statement that Peter made in chapter 19?

2. This lesson is geared to assisting the Christian who has been in the battle for some time, those who began in the beginning of the parable. "The point about these people is that they started in the right way and then got into trouble later on. How often does that happen! ... 'Ye did run well, who did hinder you?' There is a sense in which all the New Testament Epistles were written to help just this kind of person." Lloyd-Jones sets forth a number of ways in which the first ones in the parable were wrong in their attitude toward themselves and their work. What are these errors?

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

3. What is the cure to this kind of depression that occurs when a believer begins to question God about God's fairness in His dealings? One must know "that in the Kingdom of God everything is essentially different from everything in every other kingdom... Everything here is different. I must not bring with me those old ideas, those old moods and concepts of thought."

4. What are those principles of the Kingdom of God that Lloyd-Jones emphasizes?

1) Principle one: Rather than think of _____ we should be thinking of _____.

According to Lloyd-Jones, what is the most romantic thing in the world?

2) Principle two: Rather than _____ we should _____.

3) Principle three: We should _____
_____.