

## TO THE WORK

### Int.

1. Aim: to show that we have a great work to do and we must be doing it now.
2. Scriptures -
  - a. Eccl. 9:10 NKJV "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."
    - i. Whatever opportunity and ability to do
    - ii. Do it with unwearied diligence and vigor
    - iii. When this life is ended there will no further opportunity of working
  - b. Col. 3:23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,"
    - i. Whatsoever you do, work at it or labor at it
    - ii. Heartily = cheerfully, diligently - not because of necessity
3. Illustration: A boy swallowed an egg. He was afraid to leave it, because it might hatch. But he was afraid to vomit, because it might break.
4. Many of us are afraid to do the work that God has for us. Afraid to sit back and do nothing. Afraid to do something because we might make a mistake.
5. We must get to work

## Discussion

### **I. PARABLE OF THE LABORERS**

#### A. Matthew 20:1-16

1. Definition of Terms:
  - a. Householder was owner of field and he needed laborers
  - b. Vineyard was a field or plantation of vines
  - c. Penny or shilling was the usual wage for a day's work
  - d. Market was where laborers came and waited for someone to come and hire them
2. Application of these terms:
  - a. Householder represents Christ
  - b. Market-place represents the world
  - c. Laborers represent Christians who work in the vineyard
  - d. Vineyard represents the church
  - e. Reward represents eternal salvation
  - f. End of the day represents the judgment, or end of life!

#### B. Meaning of the Parable

1. The Lord invites all men to labor in his vineyard
  - a. Mt. 11:28-30
  - b. Mt. 28:18-20
  - c. Mk. 16:15-16
2. All who labor faithfully will be rewarded

## **II. THE LORD WANTS WORKERS**

- A. The householder went out to hire laborers not idlers'
  - 1. He was not looking for bosses nor loafers
  - 2. He hired people to labor as he directed!
- B. The need is for WORKERS in the vineyard
  - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
  - 2. Amos 6:1 "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion. . ."
  - 3. How much labor have we put into the vineyard?
  - 4. We may have substituted words for action:
    - a. A thing, is better "well done" than "well said."
    - b. The Lord cannot say to me "Well done" unless I have done well. He will not say, "Well said."
    - c. We must work — not just talk about it !!!

## **III. THE PLACE OF WORK**

- A. The householder hired people to labor in a specific vineyard
  - 1. He did not hire them to work in another man's vineyard
  - 2. If they had by mistake worked in another man's vineyard, he would not have been obligated to pay.
- B. The Lord hired laborers to work in his vineyard
  - 1. He didn't hire laborers to work outside the church
  - 2. The vineyard is the church and the place for work

3. The Lord has but one church:
  - a. Col. 1:18
  - b. Eph. 4:4
4. Mt. 7:21-23
  - a. The Lord will not pay those who work outside his vineyard though they work hard
  - b. Lord we have worked hard for thee
  - c. But they were mistaken for they were not in the Lord's vineyard
  - d. "I never knew you"
5. They were not told to go work in the vineyard of their choice.
6. The place to serve God is the true church, established by Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. THE KIND OF WORKERS GOD WANTS**

- A. Two classes of Workers:
  1. Contract - penny a day
  2. Promise - whatsoever is right
- B. Hiring at different hours of the day represents people obeying the gospel at different ages of life.
- C. The pay for all was the same:
  1. This represented eternal life
  2. Those who obey early or late and labor in his vineyard faithfully will receive eternal life
  3. Those who worked all day murmured because they expected more

D. The Lord wants willing workers:

1. Mt. 19:27 - peter's question revealed a wrong attitude "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?"
2. The Lord doesn't want a hireling:
  - a. So much pay for so much work
  - b. Time and ½ for overtime - double time for holidays
  - c. He wanted all to be willing — loving workers

E. "Last shall be first and the first last" - v. 16

1. The great lesson is that men do not merit or earn salvation
2. Those who worked all day did not deserve salvation any more than those who labored one hour. But this does not exclude obedience
3. Eph. 2:8-10
4. This does not mean we should wait until we are old and ready to die to obey the gospel.
  - a. When we hear the gospel we must obey - however old or young
  - b. "Behold now is the accepted time."
  - c. They could have been lost without another chance.
5. God wants workers — but he wants willing workers

**V. BE UNITED**

- A. Eph. 4:3asv "Giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace "
1. Unity = oneness
  2. Working toward the same goal
  3. Teamwork - co-operation
  4. Each doing his part, carrying his share of the load.
- B. Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

**CONCLUSION**

1. We all have work to do for the Lord
  2. Doing nothing is the biggest mistake of all. If we make mistakes, then learn from them and keep on working.
  3. The People in the Bible who worked for God made some mistakes;
    - a. Peter - the great apostle
    - b. Denied the Lord 3 times
    - c. But he was forgiven
    - d. Went on to preach the first sermon on Pentecost and to the Gentiles at Cornelius - Acts 2 & 10
  4. Even if we make a mistake let us keep on going and do the best we can.
  5. I Cor. 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
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## **The Sin of Doing Nothing At All**

He made no mistakes, took no wrong roads,  
He never fumbled the ball.  
He never went down 'neath the weight of a load  
He simply did nothing at all.  
He lost no hard fight in defense of the right.  
Never bled with his back to the wall.  
He never felt faint in his climb to the light  
He simply did nothing at all.  
So death came nigh, for life slipped by,  
And he feared for the Judgment Hall;  
When they asked him why, he said with a sigh,  
"I simply did nothing at all."  
So God will pardon your blunder, my friend,  
Or regard with pity your fall;  
But the one big sin that surely means hell,  
Is simply to do nothing at all.

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