



dj@gspc.org (562) 493-2553 x115

First impressions matter, but they are rarely complete. If Luke 17:7–10 were the only passage we knew about God, we might imagine him simply as a demanding master. But this parable reveals only one aspect of our relationship with him: God is Lord, and our obedience does not place him in our debt.

II. Connecting with One Another

III. Study the Text

- What warnings and commands does Jesus give his disciples in verses 1–4? Which of these would be especially difficult to practice?
- Why do you think the apostles respond by saying, “Increase our faith”? What might they assume they need before they can obey Jesus?
- How does Jesus’ image of mustard-seed faith answer their request? What does his response suggest about the relationship between the size of our faith and the power of God?
- In verses 7–9, what work has the servant already completed, and what is he expected to do next? What assumptions about the master-servant relationship does Jesus use to make his point?



- Jesus instructs the disciples to call themselves “unworthy servants.” In context, does “unworthy” mean that they have no value, that they have failed, or that their obedience earns no special claim upon God? Explain your answer.
- What does the statement “We have only done our duty” teach about our relationship with God? What attitudes toward obedience does it challenge?
- How might someone subtly begin treating obedience as a transaction with God? What might that sound like in someone’s prayers, expectations, or disappointments?
- Compare this parable with Luke 12:35–40. What surprising thing does the master do for his faithful servants in that passage? How do the two parables together give us a fuller picture of God?
- Read John 15:14–15. What distinction does Jesus make between servants and friends? How can we remain obedient servants while also growing into the loving friendship Jesus describes?

Reflect and Respond

- Is there something God has clearly called you to do that you have postponed because you feel you need more faith, confidence, or preparation?
- Have you ever believed—perhaps without saying it directly—that your faithfulness entitled you to a particular response from God? How has that affected your relationship with him?
- What is one ordinary act of obedience God has placed in front of you right now?
- What might help that obedience move beyond mere obligation and become an expression of love, trust, and partnership with God?

IV. Digging Deeper

- **Luke 12:35–40** — The master who serves his faithful servants
- **Luke 15:1–32** — God searches for the lost and welcomes sinners home
- **Matthew 20:1–16** — God’s generosity exceeds what workers deserve
- **John 13:1–17** — Jesus takes the position of a servant
- **John 15:9–17** — Jesus calls his disciples friends
- **Romans 12:1–2** — Offering our lives in response to God’s mercy

V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Ask God to show you where you have been postponing obedience while waiting for more faith, confidence, or certainty.
- Ask God to reveal any ways you have treated obedience as a transaction or believed that your faithfulness placed him in your debt.
- Ask God to transform reluctant duty into obedience motivated by love.
- Ask God to help you know his heart and participate willingly in his kingdom work.
- Thank God that his grace, generosity, and faithfulness are greater than anything we could earn.

