

## “Go Into The Fields!” – A Call for Sacrificial Service (Pt. 2)

*“<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the older son was in the field.” - Luke 15:25.*

### 1. Sowing and Reaping

This older son was in the field working for his father, and earning his wages. Perhaps, he was involved in either sowing or reaping. This is a spiritual principle. If we sow seeds of sin, the wages of sin is spiritual death. If we sow seeds of righteousness then we reap the fruits of the spirit and other heavenly blessings. Galatians 5:19-23 makes this clear:

*“<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.** <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.”*

In short, we reap what we sow. Either way, both Matthew 10:10 and 1 Timothy 5:18 reminds us that “A worker is worthy of his wage.” Just as we are deserving of our salary for our hard work, in the spiritual realm, we also deserving of the blessings or the curses that flow from our works.

However, just as the older son was in the field working for his earthly father, we too are called here on earth to engage in acts of sacrificial service unto our Heavenly Father. It starts with your special gift or talent.

### 2. Give A Gift of Service Unto God

God has deposited in each of us a one or more gifts or talents which he expects us to nurture. Our gifts should not only be used in a job that pays us a monthly salary, but our gifts should be used to positively impact mankind. As we use our gifts and talents to help others we bring glory and honour unto God and His Son Jesus Christ.

It is important to recognize that God is the Giver of our gifts and talents, and our ultimate objective is to exalt His holy name. *Bijolee Badio*, a young Haitian girl whom God has blessed with a beautiful voice for singing says:

*“If you have a gift, you shouldn't sing for the world because it was given by God, not people. You must exalt him.”*

1 Peter 4:10 reminds us: “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...”

Our gifts should also be used to serve others and in so doing we serve God. Matthew 25: 37-40 reiterates this:

*<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’*

*When we serve the poor and needy we are also serving our heavenly Father.*

### 3. Beware of the Love of Money!

Our main motivation for serving or not serving others should never be about money! 1 Timothy 6:10 warns us:

*“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” - 1Timothy 6:10*

Note that the love of money is what causes us to drift away God, and also what brings ‘many griefs’ into our lives. This is what happened to the young son in the story. In demanding his share of the estate, one can infer that he had a strong desire and love for the money he received. This love for money, so he could enjoy an extravagant lifestyle, caused him to drift away from his father’s house. Soon he endured hardship and grief as stated in 1 Timothy 6:10.

Motivated by the love of money, a significant number of people seek after riches by gambling. However, a large number of them lose much more than they win. Sadly, there are also those who lose their entire savings and become destitute. There is this false hope, at times motivated by greed, that one day they will win the lottery and become filthy rich. But if a person really takes the time and calculate the amount spent, he or she would realize that a lot of money is lost in gambling. If that money was saved and invested, the same person would have been very close to becoming a millionaire!

Of course, we all need money to meet our various needs, but when there is a love and strong desire for money that is what gets us into trouble. We cannot let money become like a god that we worship. It is simply a means to an end, and not an end in itself. Money, like every other thing has a purpose. Instead of being hoarded, it should be used to meet our needs and bless the lives of others, especially the poor and the needy.

Matthew 6:24 summarizes it well:

*“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

Give us a heart of sacrificial service unto You, O God. Let our actions be motivated by love for others, and for You, and not what we can get or how we can enrich ourselves.

*Heavenly Father,*

*“Help me to serve others with the right attitude. Grant unto me a desire to help the poor and needy, including the sick and the prisoners. I thank You for the gifts and talents that You have deposited inside of me. Open doors so that I can use these gifts and talents to exalt You and to bring glory and honour to Your Son Jesus Christ. Guard my heart against the love for money, for You declares that this is the root of all kinds of evil. I thank You, O Lord, for You Holy Spirit Who guides me in all truth. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”*

**Memory Verse:**

**"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." - 1 Peter 4:10.**