

Peter for the manifestly self-seeking spirit of his inquiry, and thus illustrating the principles of reward in the kingdom of heaven.

To meet with Christ is to receive a call to service. There can be no idling population in the kingdom of God. The Divine Master has employment in His vineyard for all the unemployed. It is never too late, so long as life lasts, to seek service under His guidance. There is always trouble for the idler to get into, and Dr. Watts' little hymn that says:

"Satan finds some mischief
Still for idle hands to do,"

is sadly true of many professed Christians who have no definite work to do for Christ.

The service the Master values most highly, is the service that does not calculate. This was the chief difference between the earliest laborers and the later ones, in our parable. The former made bargain with the householder for a definite wage; the latter came trusting that their employer would deal justly with them, and serving willingly without agreement as to reward. The former got just what they bargained for; the latter got more than they could have expected. God delights to bless liberally those who trust fully. It is a poor faith that will not serve its Father in heaven without a contract signed and sealed.

The value of the reward in large measure depends upon the spirit of the recipient. All the laborers received the same wage; but some went away grumbling, while others departed with loud expressions of gratitude. To the mercenary servant, forever estimating the value of his work, the wage will never be more than an earned penny. To the one whose toil is a labor of love, done in contented spirit and absolute trust, the Master's payment, however little or great, will be a sweet reward always considered more than deserved. The true thought of Christian service, is not something done in expectation of some return; but, on the contrary, a privilege given of co-operation with God which leaves us under everlasting obligation to His gracious condescension.

Songs of Service.

"To the work," "Behold the Master now," "Go work in my," "Go labor on," "Oh, where are," "Hark, the voice," "Do something for Jesus."

Seed-Thoughts in Service.

Plant them in the Soil of Meditation.

The problem of the Christian unemployed is one which deserves the best thought of the social economists in the kingdom of Christ.

God has made no provision for a salvation that ends with saving my own soul, and leaves me idling in the market place.

The spiritual idler runs tremendous danger of becoming speedily a spiritual backslider. There is no standing still in the life of the kingdom. You must either progress or retrogress.

No Christian can make the excuse that he has not been hired. Christ did not buy you with His precious blood that you might lounge into heaven with empty, unused hands—a species of spiritual aristocrat. He who truly finds Christ finds service.

FROM THE WORKER'S BOOK.—*Saved to serve*, Eph. 2:10, Col. 3:12-14, 2 Tim. 3:17, 1 Tim. 6:18, Tit. 3:8, 14, Col. 1:10, 2 Cor. 9:8, Heb. 10:24. *Impossible service*, Matt. 6:24. *Burdensome service*, Luke 10:40. *Reasonable service*, Rom. 12:1. *Unselfish service*, Gal. 5:13. *Ceaseless service*, Rev. 7:15. *What idleness leads to*, Prov. 10:4, 12:24,

13:4, 19:15, 20:4, 13, 21:25, 24:30-34, Eccles. 10:18, 1 Tim. 4:13. *Idleness reproved*, Prov. 6:6-9, Rom. 12:11, 1 Thess. 4:11, 2 Thess. 3:10, Heb. 6:12.

SELF-SEEKING SPOILS SERVICE.—The self-seeking spirit leads to Satan's kingdom, not to Christ's. It is the spirit of hell, not of heaven. "Fling away ambition; by that sin fell the angels." *Aul Caesar aut nullus*, "to be first or nothing," leads to bitterness and strife. It was Milton's Satan who said "Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven." Whoever would be greatest in the kingdom must be greatest in the things that are the essential nature of the kingdom; greatest in love, in self-denial, in faith, in service, in purity and all the other virtues that make heaven what it is.—*Peloubet*.

Helping Somewhere.

"Is your father at home?" a gentleman asked a child, on the village doctor's doorstep.

"No, sir," the boy answered, "he's away."

"Where do you think I could find him?"

"Well, you've got to look for him some place where people are sick, or hurt, or something like that. I do not know where he is, but he's helping somewhere."

"Helping somewhere" should be the record for every moment of every Christian's life. Lack of opportunity will never be accepted as an excuse while the world continues to abound in suffering, sorrow, and distress.

True Life Measurement.

Measure thy life by loss instead of gain, Not by the wine drunk, but by the wine poured forth. For life's strength standeth in life's sacrifice, And whoso gives the most has most to give.

—*Sunday School Times*.

Laborers Together With God.

Working according to God's plans, Jer. 6:16, Hos. 14:9, Mic. 6:8, Jno. 3:21, Rom. 12:11, 1 Cor. 15:58, Eph. 2:10, Tit. 2:14. *Working to accomplish God's purpose*, Matt. 5:16, 1 Pet. 2:12, Eph. 1:11, 12, Phil. 1:12, Rom. 8:28, 2 Tim. 1:9, 1 Jno. 3:8. *Working by the enabling of God's power*, Acts 1:8, Rom. 15:13, 1 Cor. 2:4, 12:4-11, Eph. 5:9-18, 2 Sam. 22:33, Isa. 40:29, Zech. 4:6, Hag. 2:4, Eph. 3:7, Phil. 3:10, 2 Tim. 1:7. *Working to receive God's praise*, Matt. 25:21, Luke 12:37, Rom. 14:18, Gal. 6:9, Heb. 13:16, Rev. 14:13.



Joy in Service.

Feb. 12.—The joy in finding the Lost. Luke 15:1-10.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: The joy of the shepherd, Matt. 18:12-14. Tuesday: The joy of the seventy, Luke 10:1-17. Wednesday: The joy of sower and reaper, John 4:35-38. Thursday: Joy amid persecution, Acts 5:34-42. Friday: Returning with joy, Ps. 126:1-6. Saturday: Lasting joy, Dan. 12:1-3.

Points From the Parables.

Suggestions on the Topic Passage.

VERSE 1.—A church or a Christian that does not attract the modern "publicans and sinners" to draw near, is failing in the great aim of Christianity.

VERSE 2.—Thus unwittingly did the Pharisees recognize the mission of Christ. Christ did not receive them, because they would not admit that they were sinners. If you will not come to Him as a sinner, you cannot come at all.

VERSES 3-7.—Can you imagine anything more utterly helpless than a lost sheep? So is it with a lost sinner. He can never of himself find his way