

I Am Just Doing My Job
(That's all he asks—no more and no less.)
Luke 17.5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

One Point: We don't negotiate with God about our service, we do what he asks.

One Question: What has God gifted you to do?

Increase our faith.

Use what I give you.

The duty of every human.

What prompts the story? I like to ask that question of all the parables and story illustrations of Jesus. There are three lessons and one request that lead to his seemingly harsh parable. The lessons: don't be a tempter, or a stumbling block, and always forgive. Tough orders to follow, Jesus! So, the request: Increase our faith.

What do you need to know? The Twelve ask Jesus to add to what they already have—faith. Give us more of what you have already given us. It is kind of like Elisha asking for a double portion of what Elijah had. This word, increase in Greek, is where we get our word prosthetic. It adds to what one has. Jesus tells them it is not about volume; it is about presence. Bigger is not better. The bottom line is to use what God has gifted you. You don't need a double portion or even more—the presences of the Holy Spirit is all one needs.

God has given you talents, gifts, inborn attributes to give him glory. His Holy spirit magnifies what you already have and develops what you didn't know you have. God never asks more of one than he has gifted them to do.

Why do you need to know it? In our culture, we expect a pat on the back, a "thank you" for everything we get right. A thank you is nice, but we should not look for them at every turn. I'll have an illustration from Bob Russell on this topic. If you work for praise, you will go broke spiritually; your heavenly bank will show zeros. If you work for the sake of the work, you will always be full of purpose, and your treasure will be great.

What do you need to do? Seize every opportunity to do God's will in your life. Is this parable harsh? Not in the light of grace. When we obey, we are doing all he expects. What is God's will?
Look up 1 Pet 4.10-11.

Why do you need to do it? Using your gifts pleases God. The sun and moon obey his will and command, and so should the disciple. At his throne, you will hear the words, well done, good and faithful servant.