

INTRODUCTION

1. We expect some result from our work - Prv 14:23. Man's original mandate to labor continues in spite of curse that brings frustration - Eccl 2:11. Why do we work? We hope for some result, w/ an expectation.
2. Jesus motivates us - Lk 6:35. More jarring "kingdom inversions"! *Expect nothing & your reward will be great.*
 - i. Relinquish ethic of reciprocity: strive for a superior ethic than *sinners'*
 - ii. In rln to men - do not look for personal benefit.
 - iii. In rln to King Jesus - promise of *great reward!* 2 motivations according to 2 kinds of life lived: relinquish one for sake of the other.

1st: The Legitimacy of Rewards - v35

1. Ascetic, monastic piety & religious service: *expect nothing* - period.
 - i. Reformation: doct of justification apart from works/merit. Salvation is more than "just justification".
 - ii. Jesus motivates us w/ prospect of rewards - Lk 6:23 & v35.
2. Reward is both good [creation] & gracious [Christ's kingdom].
 - i. Adam: labor -> fruit; complete task - Sab Rest. Legit cause & effect relationship between work & reward.
 - ii. Curse of Fall disturbs relationship between work & reward: thorns
3. Expectation of reward - w/i principle of grace - promised to obedient faith
 - i. AbCov - Ab believed promise [Gn 15] & obeyed command [Gn 22]. Gn 22:16-18 *B/c you have done this thg... b/c you have obeyed*
 - ii. OCov - Deut 11 - rewards for fidelity & punishments for infidelity.
 - iii. Incarnate Son accomplished task expecting what Father promised in "The Covenant of Redemption" - Jesus was motivated by reward.
 - iv. Parable of mina [Lk 1] & parable of talents [Mt 25].
 - v. Quality service in 1C 3 - warn of loss of reward.
 - vi. Hb 11:6, 24-25; Rv 22:12
4. Jesus did what Adam failed to do: earn the reward of Sab Rest.
5. Encouragement for reward is not something base, but dignifies who we are as image of God & Sons of God Most High.

2nd: Relinquish Earthly Rewards - v32-35a

1. *expect nothing in return* = discipleship: die to life lived for this age. When *sinners* reciprocate, they are not sinning. But we are to do that, and more.
 - i. Rm 12:17 - common grace, creation goodness- 1C 13:3, Rm 5:7b
 - a. philanthropic organizations
 - b. *sinners* as people

C. cultures - mix of common grace & fallen rebellion

2. v32-35a - our motivation is determined by love for Jesus & His kingdom.
3. Mat 5:46-47 *do more than others* - be "a peculiar people" [1Pt :9 KJV].
4. Lk 6:32-35a idea of *rewardis* imported into *credit* [grace, gift, favor] - the crux of our "doing more" is our motivation, expectation.
 - i. v34 - *from whom you expect to receive* - anticipate some reward
 - ii. v35 - *expecting nothing in return* - your trust, confidence.
 - iii. Hyperbole - it is right to expect reciprocal "good" from men, but that is not what motivates us. Our hope is so exclusively placed in Jesus, that comparatively speaking, we expect *nothing* from men.
5. Jesus is contrasting reward *now* & *your reward is great in heaven*.

3rd: Pursue Kingdom Rewards - v23a, 35b

1. *reward will be great in heaven* - reward of faithful service to Jesus. What rewards? The blessings of v20-23 - all that Jesus has earned: Eph 1:18-23
2. Spirit works to disconnect our aspirations from the vanity of this age. Gal 6:14; Phil 3:7-11 living a life of salvation: faith, hope, love - for Christ.
3. We receive Christ & all He has. Final Judgment is the day of rewards! Our rewards will exceed their real worth - dynamic of love [1C 2:9]
 - i. Ps 16:11; Mat 25:23; Rev 21:7
 - ii. Jim Elliot: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
4. Christian - 1C 15:58
5. Unbeliever: Mt 6:19-21