

# The Parables of Jesus

**“Thankful Servants”**

**Luke 17:7-10**

**July 21, 2019**

**A Worship Series for the Summer of ‘19**

## Luke 17:7-10

“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’? <sup>8</sup> 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’? <sup>9</sup> Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> 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.’”

drama

## *“servant”*

Someone in unpayable debt  
who will either will go to prison  
or pay off their debt through working.

*“My behavior has earned favor”*

*“God, you owe me”*

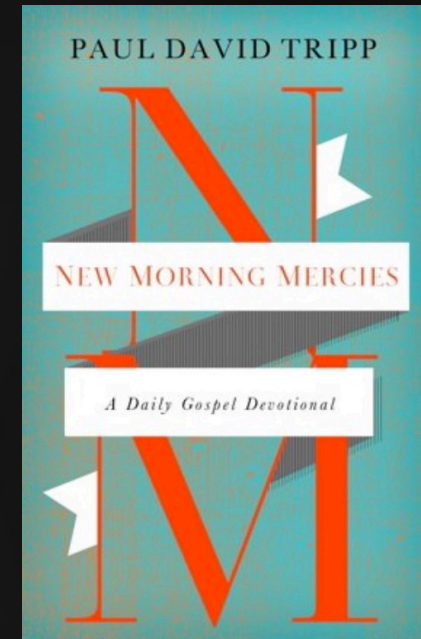
*“God, I’m yours and I am told that you love me.  
Why is there so much pain in my life?”*

Family Pain  
Physical Pain  
Financial Pain  
Spiritual Pain

*“I’ve been sacrificing for you all these years,  
why do I feel so distant?  
Why can’t I overcome this sin in my life?”*

“‘Need’ forms expectation as to what God ought to do (“You should...”). You see, if you’re convinced it’s a need, you think you’re entitled to it, you’re convinced that you have the right to demand it, and you will judge God’s love by his willingness to deliver it. Expectation then leads to disappointment if God doesn’t deliver.”

New Morning Mercies (July 10), Paul David Tripp



## **I misunderstand my relationship with God**

Yes, I am declared a beloved child of God... but He is still infinitely above, ruling over every aspect of my life.

I am simultaneously a servant and a son

## **I misunderstand the depth of debt He paid**

The debt I owed was literally my life, and Jesus went to the cross and paid that full penalty

## **I misunderstand my “goodness”**

Now in Christ I think that my behavior is somehow holy in and of itself when, in actuality, my behavior is just as much of a gift of the Spirit as my salvation

## **I misunderstand the timeline**

In this life and in this world we are in the “not yet”, not the “already”.

The Banquet is yet to come

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*We want heaven now.*

*Sit back and enjoy:  
I'm saved and perpetually forgiven,  
so let the eternal party begin.*

*But our earthly-role isn't over...*

My life isn't about God serving me,  
but me serving God

Romans 6:10-12

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

My life isn't about God serving me,  
but me serving God

Not because of a spiritual obligation,  
but out of gratitude for his sacrifice for me.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God  
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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“unworthy” = unmerited

Jesus isn't saying we are “worthless”  
but that God doesn't “owe” us anything.

“what was our duty”

Literally... “we are only paying back the debt that we owe”

We owe a debt we cannot pay  
Jesus *paid* a debt he did not owe

### Philippians 3

<sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish...

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# We “owe” God nothing

Galatians 3:13

Christ *redeemed* us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

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Christ *redeemed* us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us

## We “owe” God everything

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die”  
Cost of Discipleship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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## Revelation 19:6-8

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.

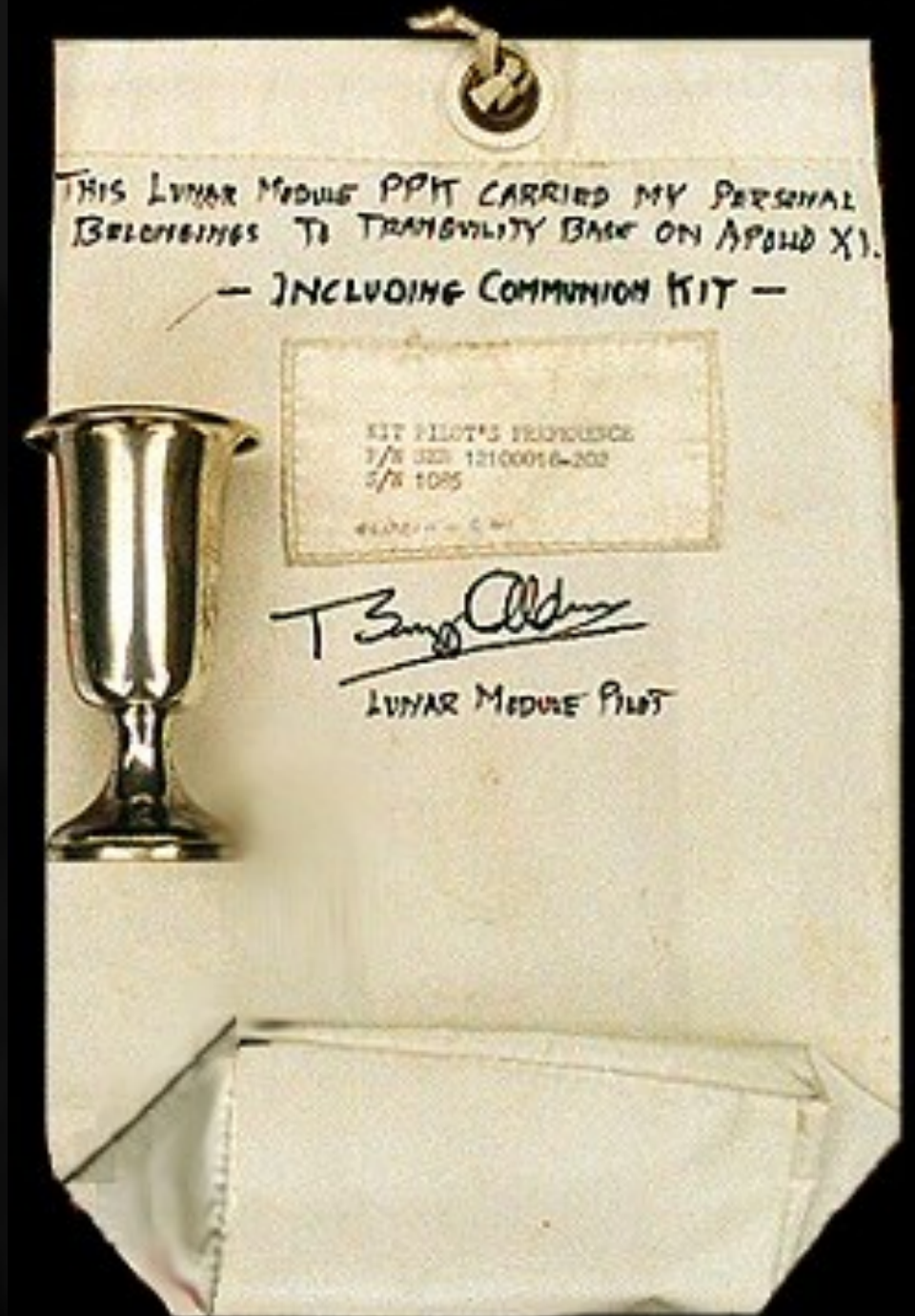
<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his Bride has made herself ready;  
<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure”



# Earth to Moon Clip

Buzz Aldrin while on moon's  
Tranquility Base, July 1969:

“In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements.” After taking the elements, Buzz says he “sensed especially strongly my unity with our church back home, and with the church everywhere.”



**John 15:4-5**

**Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**

